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Board appoints new president

Photo courtesy of JJC website

Dr. Debra Daniels will be starting her term at JJC on March 1.

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

After reviewing more than two dozen applications and narrowing it down to three candidates, the Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees approved Dr. Debra Daniels as JJC's eighth president at the Dec. 13 board meeting.

The search committee to find candidates for JJC's new president was comprised of 14 people who represented all aspects of the college, including representatives from the board, full-time and adjunct faculty, facility services, campus police and the student body.

When the committee had narrowed down the applications to three final candidates, public forums were held for each of the candidates so that people in the JJC community could ask questions of the candidates. After each forum, those who attended were asked to fill out questionnaires with what they thought each candidate's strengths and weaknesses were.

Chairwoman of the Board Barb Delaney, who was head of the search committee, said that each and every questionnaire was looked at by everyone on the search committee.

"Students to administration to faculty and staff, everyone was saying the same comments and the same good attributes that we were seeing," Delaney said. "It didn't make our decision difficult at all for a president. We all had the same vision of what we wanted in our next president for JJC."

Delaney said that the primary reason Daniels was chosen was for her presidential experience and that she had the skills to run JJC. Delaney also pointed out that she had great interest in the student body and that she even attended a community college as a student.

"What was nice about her was that she started as a community college student and she

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Natural sciences division expands

BY EMILY GAHAN
Staff Writer

Since 2007, Joliet Junior College has been undergoing a series of renovations along with new additions to the campus, such as the Campus Center, Facility Services Building, and an automotive expansion.

JJC's master plan is a document developed by engineers and architects along with the campus and local community representatives. The plan includes the construction and renovation of 750,000 square feet of facilities and 463 acres of land.

Some goals of the project are to use existing space as efficiently as possible and value safety and accessibility in all areas. One structure outlined in the master plan is the expansion of the natural sciences department.

"We're going to be adding 10 new biology classrooms, we'll double our anatomy and physiology classrooms upstairs, and we'll be able to double our general biology offerings eventually," said John Griffis, director of the natural sciences program. "This won't take place overnight, but we have the capacity to do that."

The natural sciences expansion is also constructed with sustainability in mind by using geothermal heating and positioning windows to allow natural lighting and efficient air circulation.

Additionally, JJC is expecting to build four new chemistry labs and update present classrooms into labs and lecture rooms. The expansion will have some advantages over the old labs and classrooms by incorporating the

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Former student sentenced 4 years

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

Former Joliet Junior College student Joshua K. Price, 27, has been sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to charges of aggravated child pornography. The verdict was handed down in Will County Court on Dec. 12, 2011.

According to Will County State's Attorney's Office, Price was sentenced by Associate Judge Edward Burmila after entering a blind plea. Price must register as a sex offender as part of his sentence.

Price was originally arrested and charged on three counts of aggravated child pornography on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, after a student found his flash-drive in a JJC computer. The original arrest was reported in the Blazer.

When the student gave the drive to a faculty member to identify the owner, not only was homework with Price's name on it found, but so were hundreds of pornographic images involving children, JJC police said. Following the initial investigation, JJC Police Chief Pete Comanda said he found hundreds of images involving both boys and girls of all ages.

At the Dec. 12 hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Fred Harvey, the state prosecutor of the case, said the pornographic images on the flash drive and Price's home computer involved children ages 2 to 15. He said some of the images included children involved with bestiality.

According to court records, upon further investigation of the flash-drive, authorities also found images of dismembered women.

According to CBS news, Price was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in the military, where he was stationed in the Middle East. He told police that he used these images and videos as a distraction from thoughts of killing his wife and two daughters.

"Certainly (the) defendant is a danger to society in that child pornography is what allows him to keep it together," Harvey said at the Dec. 12 hearing.

Following his initial arrest last spring, Price's original bail of $250,000 was upped to $1 million by Burmila at a May 13, 2011 hearing after it was revealed how Price used the images, according to CBS news.

Joshua Price

According to the Chicago Tribune, Burmila said it was troubling that Price would put the images and videos on a flash-drive to bring with him to public places.

"You took the device to a public place, your desire to view this material was so strong," Burmila said at the Dec. 12 hearing.

Price was transferred from Will County Jail to the Department of Corrections facility on Jan. 3, 2012.

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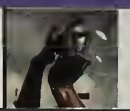
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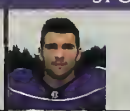
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EDITORIAL

State goal vs. JJC mission

Back in September, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon was touring the state's community colleges as part of the "60 by 25" plan where the state wants 60 percent of working adults to have college degrees by the year 2025.

The reason Simon toured the state's community colleges and not four-year universities is because, according to the numbers, community colleges admit the most students but graduate the fewest.

While we are all happy that the state is paying attention to community colleges, are these numbers not a little misleading?

After all, at the JJC presidential candidate forum for JJC's future president, Dr. Debra Daniels, when was asked what she would do to increase graduation rates at JJC, made a very valid point.

"Their (students) goal might be to take two classes. We have to be knowledgeable of that," Daniels said. "We need to make sure that they finish their goal, not ours."

Not everyone who attends JJC is here to complete a college degree or to even get a certificate. Many people come here to take classes in the technical department to update their training. Others take culinary arts classes to improve their skills in the kitchen.

Many students come to JJC because they are not sure what they want to major in and do not want to spend $20,000-$50,000 a year to find that out at a four-year institution.

There are also plenty of people who attend JJC for only a year or two to save money and simply transfer to a four-year university and not complete the degree. Their "goal" is to put their prerequisites behind them as they save money to pay for expensive four-year institutions.

In some fields, it is actually better for the student to transfer before they have too many credit hours in a discipline.

"Our request of community colleges is deceptively simple: Help more of your students finish what they start," Simon said. "As a state, we must stay focused on the finish."

She added, "The colleges need to understand that open-door admissions policies are not an excuse for revolving doors. They will be a part of the educational accountability movement as long as we cast them in a leading role in our economic recovery."

We agree, but finishing "what they start" may not be attaining a degree or certificate. It may just be getting their prerequisites behind them so they can move on to a degree program, or taking a few courses to upgrade their skills.

According to Joanne Kantner, director of developmental education at JJC, colleges, based on graduation and certificate rates, will get performance-based money from the state beginning in 2013.

While our hope is that JJC improves its graduation and certificate rates, we hope they do not do it at the expense of the overall mission of the college, which is to serve our community's needs.

Injuries bring sportsmanship to sports

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

Sports are a funny thing. No matter what the sport, you see teams play to the best of their abilities while fans cheer at the top of their lungs to show that they are loyal to their teams. And when it comes to special circumstances, every team is the same.

In the Lady Wolves home game against Malcolm X College on Jan. 26, an injury occurred. One of the players from Malcolm X, Fila Poe, who is a sophomore small forward, seemed to pull a muscle late in the second half of the game. Poe was attempting to take a charge when the injury occurred.

It was later determined to be a severe leg cramp that caused Poe to fall to the floor. The referees immediately stopped the game while the staff on hand tended to Poe. But the surprising part was that both teams, fans and coaches cheered Poe off the court.

"It shows what kind of program you have," said Malcolm X Assistant Coach Andra Barnes after Head Coach Kimberly McQuarter refused to comment on the game and any subsequent questions.

Not only did fans cheer, but the majority of those in the gym even clapped when Poe rose to her feet. Immediately following the incident, Malcolm X called a timeout to talk strategy and tend to Poe further.

"You show care because at the end of the day the well-being of each athlete in the game is most important no matter what team they play for," said Head Coach Shaun Sanderson.

It seems that each time an injury happens, teams respond supportively. Even with something as simple as helping a fallen player off the ground shows character. This is what Barnes and Richardson were referring to. Even in professional sports, no player is ever forgotten when injured.

Even in the most serious situations when only a thumbs up or a nod of the head is given, everyone reacts in support of the individual whether rival, opponent or the home town athletes.

Each injury is never a good thing or ever intentional. Injuries are common amongst athletes and are experienced throughout the season.

"No coach wants to see any player get hurt on both sides," says Sanderson. "So you show concern for each injury whether major or minor."

The best example in recent memory is the Eric Lagrand out of Rutgers University. Lagrand was paralyzed in a college football game and is now on his way to regain complete neurological function and walk again.

As said before by Sanderson, you show concern for every injury and player. The players, coaches, fans and professionals respect the game and hope for an injury free season.

When injuries do occur, it comes back to the players, coaches, fans and professionals to show compassion. No player is ever alone on the court, field or any other surface.

The team is a family and the crowd is an opposition. But, when something tragic such as an injury occurs, they become one with the player and will him or her off with wishes to be healthy.

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Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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latest technology and using the space in new ways.

"We used to have in some of the classrooms, like for general biology, (where) there was a lecture portion in the room with desks or tables, and then there was a laboratory part of the room on the other side, but we've been convinced that it's not the best use of space because you're either over at the lecture side or you're over in the lab side – so we separated out lecture and lab," stated Griffis.

"Although we will still probably for a time have the ability to move between a lecture room and a lab room."

Most of the current labs will be downsized due to this separation of lab and lecture areas, but the layout of the renovations allows for future additions. However, a few classrooms will still merge both lecture and lab.

For these rooms, students will sit at unique, oval-shaped tables where they can view the whiteboard and projections comfortably and then turn around and be able to do labs with plenty of space.

The construction is scheduled to be completed this fall, accomplishing one of JJC's goals to improve the campus for its students.

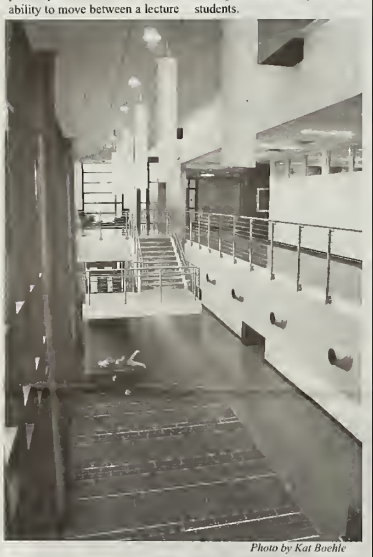

Photo by Kat Boehle

The new design of the JJC Natural Science expansion.

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understands just how important a community college is," Delaney said. "She was very well-rounded and had a lot of things that we need at JJC."

Daniels is currently finishing up her term as president at San Bernadino Valley College in California and will be starting her term as JJC's president on March 1, 2012.

At Daniels' forum on Nov. 30, 2011, in response to a question about what she would do if chosen to be president, she said that she would make getting to know the students a priority.

"I think that as a new president, it's important to jump right in and get to know the people that you work with," Daniels said. "You need to get to know me and know that I'm consistent, someone you can trust, this is what I think – and I want to know all of that about you, too."

She also said that she would make sure that the programs at JJC reflect the community's needs. Although she agrees that JJC does a great job of reflecting these needs, Daniels believes that there is always room for improvement.

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Mainstreet helps clubs to recruit new members

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

On Feb. 1 and 2, Joliet Junior College had their biannual Mainstreet event as demonstrated by the balloons you probably saw decorating the bridge.

JJC's office of student activities was passing out leis, t-shirts, popcorn and sugar cookies. Mainstreet is JJC's way to introduce clubs and search for new members.

Clubs were scattered all over the concourse. Many were giving out pens and many more were holding raffles. There were even a few new clubs on Mainstreet this semester like Student Sustainability and Students Against Drugs.

There are about 42 clubs on campus this semester minus the few that JJC lost last semester. There are a lot of different clubs that students can be a part of.

The theme for Mainstreet this year was Hawaii. Student United Way had their club table decorated with under the sea items like plastic fish and a black net and some of the OSA's staff was even wearing grass skirts to celebrate the Hawaiian theme.

"I enjoyed Mainstreet this semester," said JJC student Michelle Huckfeldt. "Even though it was hard getting to my classes due to student traffic I had a lot of fun."

Many clubs were successful when it came to recruiting new members including the Teachers of Tomorrow who said they had at least four pages of interested members.

JJC's mascot Wiley Wolf was back once again to greet students. Many students enjoyed spinning the game wheel with OSA and playing Mainstreet bingo to be entered in a raffle. There was even a club giving out flash drives.

If you are interested in joining a club or are looking for more information on the ones you saw at Mainstreet, talk to an employee at OSA in D-1010 or look at the club directory located outside the OSA office.

Automotive Club member informs student on club information. *Photo by Tavia Hanrahan*

Students flood the concourse during Mainstreet. *Photo by Tavia Hanrahan*

JJC responds to Lt. Governor's report

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 22, 2011, Illinois Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon toured Joliet Junior College as her 30th stop of a state-wide tour of all of the state's community colleges.

This tour was coordinated with the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium and was designed to help Simon learn more about the barriers of completing a college degree.

Simon wanted to learn about these barriers because earlier in 2011, state leaders announced that they wanted to increase the percentage of working adults with college degrees or certificates from 41 percent to 60 percent by 2025.

On Jan. 19, a press release was released announcing that Simon was urging education leaders to adopt a reform package that aims to increase the number of Illinois community college students who graduate within three years of enrollment.

"Our request of community colleges is deceptively simple: Help more of your students finish what they start," Simon said. "As a state, we must stay focused on the finish."

In the report, Simon has "four steps to focus on the finish" that she is urging community colleges to adopt in order to meet the state's goal.

According to Joanne Kantner, director of developmental education, JJC is already practicing many of the report's initiatives.

The first step of the report talks about starting high school students on the right path for college. This includes requiring high school students to complete four years of math, having community colleges offer dual credit courses to high school juniors and seniors, and promoting collaboration between college and high school faculty.

Kanter said that JJC already offers a lot of dual credit courses in both career technology and general education.

In terms of collaboration between JJC faculty and district high school faculty, Kanter said that JJC attends regional workshops by the Illinois Community College Board on college readiness. At these regional conferences, faculty from high schools, JJC faculty, and a couple of partner four-year universities discuss college readiness for JJC's district, District 525.

According to Kantner, JJC is also sharing information with the district high schools on how their students are placing on the college COMPASS placement test.

According to Simon's report, 81 percent of JJC students place into remedial math classes. Because of this, Kantner said that the JJC math department is sponsoring a gathering where JJC math faculty and high school math faculty discuss placement and college readiness for math and to see if there is anything that JJC can do to help make high school students more college-ready.

The second step of the report discussed anticipating the needs of modern college students including offering programs to fit the needs of students who balance many responsibilities, contextualizing and embedding remedial skills courses in credit-bearing courses and providing wrap-around support services.

In order to follow the suggestion of contextualizing and embedding remedial skills courses in credit-bearing courses, Kanter said that the college just finished a pilot course where JJC offered a section of English 101 where they allowed students who almost placed into English 101 to enroll in the course.

Students would go to English 101 three days a week while the other two days of the week they would go to a supplemental developmental writing curriculum lecture.

"We're currently analyzing the results and it's looking positive," Kantner said.

In terms of "wrap-around" support services, Kantner pointed out that JJC already offers a variety of support services for students of all different backgrounds and needs including Academic Skills Center, Project Achieve, Student Accommodations and Resources and the math learning center to name a few.

The third step of the report included the state initiatives of creating a more general education certificate that guarantees transfer students sophomore status and capping associate degrees at 60 credits.

The third initiative of the third step was to award associate degrees retroactively en route to bachelor's degrees. According to Kantner, the Student Success Grant Funded Projects looked at students who had left JJC with 45 or more completed credits who had not completed an associate's degree. They were contacted to see if they were interested in completing a degree.

According to an analysis of the transcripts of the 2031 students that were contacted, 852 had all of the credits necessary for completing a degree. These students were asked if they wanted to complete their degree retroactively.

All of the suggestions in the fourth step of the report are all state initiatives, according to Kantner. These initiatives include establishing common measures of success, publishing the success rates by college and state annually in "consumer-friendly report cards" and to tie progress and success to each school's state funding.

According to Simon's report, the current state funding for community colleges is based on enrollment and not completion.

"Starting in 2013, colleges will get some performance money from the state based on the college's increases in completion," Kantner said.

In conclusion to her report, Simon points out community colleges as the go-to educational option for non-traditional students and the at-risk population.

"The colleges need to understand that open-door admissions policies are not an excuse for revolving doors," Simon said. "They will be a part of the educational accountability movement as long as we cast them in a leading role in our economic recovery."

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A prosthetic arm. *Courtesy of JJC website*

JJC OPT program is now accredited

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College Orthotics and Prosthetics Technology Program were recently accredited by the National Commission of Orthotic and Prosthetic Education.

In order for the OPT program to be accredited, JJC had to submit a self-study to the NCOPE who uses these guidelines to ensure adequate education for the O&P profession.

Now that JJC's OPT program is accredited, graduates will find it easier to sit for the national board exam. Without the program being accredited, a graduate might have to spend two years in an orthotics discipline.

The need for prosthetic limbs is still growing in this country. The top two causes are vascular diseases and diabetes. The need reaches beyond the United States into developing countries mainly because of landmines due to war outbreaks.

Many non-government organizations are always in need of well-educated graduates who are also well equipped to work with their hands.

The OPT program does not only require a sharp-minded individual but one must have good dexterity in crafting prosthetic limbs that will perfectly fit the objective size and shape.

Along with the interview with the Associate Professor and OPT Program Coordinator Mike Bmcick, he also gave me great insight on how the two laboratories operate.

In the OPT laboratories here at JJC, one can make impressions of an individual's foot, then they can modify the shape of the cast to complete the missing anatomy of the particular patient.

Students in the OPT program work with plaster, sewing and other materials, such as carbon fiber, to create well-crafted, strong and light prosthetic equipment.

For more information on the OPT program, you can contact Bmcick at (815) 280-2219 or email him at mbmcick@jjc.edu.

King celebrates 25 years

Athletic director honored by staff and players at event

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

Long-time JJC Athletic Director and Baseball Coach Wayne King was honored for his 25 years at the college on Friday, Jan. 27, at Syl's Restaurant in Rockdale.

During his 25-year tenure at JJC, King has led the Wolves to two national championships and 10 World Series appearances. The event focused on King's accomplishments as former players and coaches paid respect to the man who has had such an impact on JJC sports that the baseball field carries his name.

Players from every year King has coached, including his first year in 1987, attended the event. Each represented class emerged in greater numbers to commemorate King's accomplishments.

To better accommodate King and his accomplishments in a set time, a slide show was set up showing pictures and videos. JJC also held on to some of the apparel worn by his players from 1987 to the present day, showing the vastness of his career.

"It was touching, it humbled me," said King when former players, current players and members of the Joliet and JJC community gave a speech noting his dedication to the school.

"History and stability of the program in the 25 years, we have only had three losing seasons," said King. "We've had eight drafted or signed players. The highest so for is AA, never the major leagues."

Over 90 percent of King's players have gone on to play at four-year universities.

"I enjoy our kids' success personally and as a team," King said. "They start to live their lives, mature, get married, have kids and have success."

The success of the players, former players and everyone else in attendance was shown by the applause and enjoyment of the event.

"It was cool to see," said Assistant Coach Greg Braun. "It was really nice to see the effort to come out here, shows the factor of JJC baseball. The whole event was great."

About 210 people showed up to commemorate King. While King accepted the night in his honor, he was ready to get back to work. King and the baseball team open their season at home on Tuesday, March 6 at 2:30 p.m. against Highland Community College.

File photo by Kat Boehle
Wayne King addresses audience at field dedication in 2009.

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JJC chef publishes new book

McGreal's recently released text teaches people how to cook

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

Head of the Joliet Junior College culinary arts and hospitality department Chef Michael McGreal has just published a new textbook entitled Culinary Arts Principles and Applications.

According to McGreal, the book will be used for the first semester cooking class for JJC culinary arts students as well as several other schools across the country that have already adopted the book into their curriculum.

However, McGreal said that although it is a textbook, it can easily be used for everyday people interesting in cooking.

"Even though it's a textbook, it's really quite beautiful because it will teach people who don't know how to cook how to cook," McGreal said.

McGreal said that the book is primarily an instructional book of over a thousand pages with thousands of color photos and 300 recipes. It also includes a CD-ROM with 90 videos on various cooking techniques.

American Technical Publishers originally approached McGreal back in 2008 about revising a textbook on food service. However, when re-writing one of the chapters, the publisher noticed that he wrote more like a chef instead of someone in food service. He was then asked to write a whole new book on cooking techniques.

However, this is not the first book that McGreal has published. Back in 2009, McGreal also published a culinary math book entitled Culinary Math Principles and Applications.

McGreal said that the textbook focuses on special culinary math skills including portioning foods and profitability of a cooking business. The JJC math department currently uses it for Math 091, the culinary math class.

Culinary Arts Principles and Applications is not the only book that just came out for McGreal. He also helped write the recently released National Apprenticeship Training for Cooks, a set of seven cooking modules for those completing certain cooking apprenticeship programs.

McGreal does not plan on stopping here, however. He said that he would love to write more books on topics including knife carving and healthy eating.

"I would love to write a book about changing your life through what you eat," McGreal said. "I would also love to write a kids book about healthy eating choices for kids."

When not writing books, running the culinary department, or teaching classes, McGreal also speaks at around 10 conferences per year on various topics including culinary leadership, healthy cooking, supporting local farming, and eating to change your life.

McGreal will also be completing his Master of Arts degree this semester in Higher Education Administration at Robert Morris University in Chicago.

Photo courtesy of JJC website

JJC Chef Michael McGreal oversees work in college kitchen.

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Artist shows off 'handy' work at JJC

By Gina Caponigro
Staff Writer

The newest exhibit currently showing in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery features selected sculptural works by Michael Ruback.

Ruback's sculptures depict arms, fingers, wrists and hands contorted into different positions. The sculptor uses mixed media in each of his pieces with bronze and limestone or a combination of the two frequently used.

Many of Ruback's pieces have an abstract meaning behind them, while others have a literal meaning. In the piece titled "Iron Man," a man's head crafted from iron on concrete is screaming in pain because of an iron weight pressed upon his skull.

Another piece with a literal meaning, "Work at Hand," shows an arm holding what appears to be a sculpting tool. The sculpture titled "Cain/Abel," which is crafted from bronze, shows a push and pull effect, especially with the tension in the fingers of both arms, symbolic to the brothers' relationship told in the Biblical story.

"Manumorphoses" featured tiny hands flipped into unnatural positions balanced on a wooden post, creating height.

Ruback's work showed excellent form and attention to detail, from wrinkles in hands to the vein pulsing in arms and the delicate folds in clothing.

JJC students and faculty are encouraged to view Ruback's selected works from Jan. 17 until Feb. 10 in the Laura A. Sprague art gallery located on the second floor of J building.

Michael Ruback displays art in Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery, including statues Cain/Abel (on left) and Intermission (on right).

Photos by Kat Boehle

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'The Artist' impresses viewer

French film pays homage to classical movie making ways

By Adriano Vazquez
Staff Writer

In a film era that is filled with pointless remakes, sequels and adaptations, credit French director Michel Hazanavicius for having the guts to make a black and white silent film in the 21st century.

His latest French film The Artist succeeds not just as a homage to classic moviemaking, but also as an incredibly charming and emotional story about the transition from silent film to talkies.

Popular French actor Jean Dujardin (well known for staring in Hazanavicius's Oss 17 movies) plays George Valentin, a silent film star whose success peaks towards the beginning of talking pictures.

When an innocent public encounter with a fan named Peppy Miller (played by French actress Berenice Bejo) leads to her own start into acting, they both begin to deal with their own personal experiences during the new dawn of film.

Talking pictures have now become the new standard, and while Miller's transition into talkies makes her the new Hollywood star, Valentin's disapproval of the new format leads to his downward spiral into depression.

This is not exactly a love story, and while subtleties definitely lead to obvious attraction, their close friendship is the heart of the movie. This is one of the main driving forces that make The Artist such an entertaining movie to watch from beginning to end.

Dujardin and Bejo are unknown actors in the U.S., but they are so effortlessly charismatic that one could mistake them for performers of the early 1920's and 1930's. Dujardin has a certain charisma that is reminiscent to the likes of the great Clark Gable and Gene Kelley.

In addition to Bejo, the rest of the supporting cast is incredibly memorable as well. Including James Cromwell as Valentin's valet driver, a studio boss played by John Goodman and a Palm Dog Award winning Jack Russell Terrier who is George Valentin's pet and pal in showbiz.

The musical score by French composer Ludovic Bource is quite wonderful. While a lot of the score is original, his use of Bernard Hermanns "Love Theme" from Alfred Hitchcock's Vertigo is masterful.

Even though this is a silent film, without dwelling into spoiler territory, the use of sound sprinkled throughout is not only clever, but important in expressing the metaphor that the director is trying to express with the silent film gimmick.

Oscar hype can be a funny thing. It can lead to mainstream audiences shaking their heads after watching movies like The Reader, Crash and Babel. But then it can lead to audiences being blown away by films like The Social Network, No Country for Old Men and The Departed.

The Artist falls into the latter category. It lives up to its hype. Be prepared for this to sweep the Oscars come Feb. 26, because it completely deserves it.

Photo courtesy of La Petite Reine

Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo in publicity photo for 'The Artist.'

'One for the Money' a must see

By Kate George
Staff Writer

Katherine Heigl is the star of many well produced comedies such as The Ugly Truth, Life as We Know It, Knocked up, and her latest film One for the Money. Heigl plays the lead female role of Stephanie Plum who is recently unemployed, divorced and looking for some fast, easy cash.

She lands a job as a bounty hunter at her cousin's bail-bond business. Plum reluctantly takes the job – how hard can it be to bring in a few criminals who skipped out on court? Because of this simple plot, I was skeptical about seeing this movie because it seemed like it would be one of those movies where all the best parts are shown in the trailer and the rest of the movie is bad – sort of like The Devil Inside.

However, this actually turned out to be a really good movie. There were parts that seemed predictable, but then something completely different happened instead which kept a good pace for the movie and kept the audience interested for the whole duration of the film.

This movie is definitely worth the time and money to go see. This film is one that you could watch over and over again because the funny scenes will still be funny. The entire audience was constantly laughing throughout the whole movie and everyone left the theater pleased.

This is a film that everyone can enjoy. There is a wide variety of action scenes from cage fights to cars exploding and, of course, tickets to the gun show. By that I mean a little eye candy for the ladies, not only does this film star Heigl (a little eye candy for the guys) but also stars Daniel Sunjata as Ranger, Stephanie's well-built and attractive bounty hunting mentor throughout the film.

Overall, the film was really well done and had a consistent and fast pace that kept the movie upbeat and entertaining – the acting was very good as well.

Another good note for those who have read the book that the film is based off of, although I have not personally read any of the Stephanie Plum books, many people in the audience said the characters in the movie were really comparable to how they are in the book and that the film does enough justice to the book.

After all, the books are usually better than the films because you can only squeeze so much into a 90 minute movie and you can't put everyone's preconceived ideas into the film either.

The last part of the movie was definitely my favorite scene. Although the ending might seem predictable, there is a good surprise at the end that will leave you waiting for the second film, so hopefully they do continue with the Stephanie Plum series.

So grab some friends and go check out One for the Money.

Photo courtesy of Lakeshore Entertainment

Katherine Heigl and Daniel Sunjata in new comedy 'One for the Money.'

Asher Roth 'leads a progressive trail'

By Lorenzo Jackson
Staff Writer

Not as well-known as most artists with an album, Asher Roth delivers worthwhile lyrical content with each song he makes.

With the release of his 2009 album Asleep in the Bread Aisle and memorable songs attached to it such as "I Love College" and "Lark in my Go-Kart," he leads a progressive trail of new-age head-nodding music that lovers of old school and new school hip-pop can enjoy.

Despite the peculiar title of the most recent release, Pabst & Jazz, it is still a true verification that "boom-box" hip-pop is not totally dead yet. In comparison to the more modern popular music of "club bangers" and music based solely on a hard beat and an attractive hook, he goots his credentials heavily on his wordplay and rapping "life-through-lyrics" songs for those who enjoy the better vibe of hip-pop.

Roth stays consistent with the individualistic, stereotypical, non-gangster rap type smoothness. Very relatable and from a personal perspective, it's perfect cruising music on a cold, sunny day in a Chicago-land suburb.

It's one of the few forms of rap music you can blast and the neighbors will not kick down their doors to reach for your volume button. Pabst & Jazz is a critical piece of Roth's "I'm a white rapper, but not Eminem" DNA that you would have to almost put your headphones on backwards to miss.

He avoids being hard and I personally compare this mixtape to a Roots album, which says more to the focused blend of deeper words and instrumentals you truly do not need the lyrics to listen to, yet they become the added bonus.

Roth is not simply a rapper of verses because he seems to go out of his way to let you listen to the music behind his flow. This accounts to his character and in many interviews he is quoted stating that he is the "nerd" of rap. He appreciates rap and to a tone you can hear it in his music.

Overall, the mixtape is smoother than the jazz sampled to make it – this being the work of Blended Babies productions. The only real flaw -- besides the amount of plays this deserves and will not receive -- is the numerous features. This becomes a problem due to the length of each track.

To add even more length to his songs, he seems to allow the jazz in the song to keep going on the backend, as if to tell his listeners "Hey, you can rap on this track too." Track 16 on Pabst & Jazz is a prime example of him making a seven minute song with half lyrics and half jazz.

I absolutely love this setup, so I will definitely give him 9 out of 10 and expect more meaningful hip-pop on his next up-and-coming album.

Asher Roth in promotion picture.

Photo courtesy of Asher Roth

Styx not the same without Deyoung

By Drew Williams
Staff Writer

Before the days of Styx, there was a little garage band in the southern-most section of Chicago, Roseland, called The Trade Winds that was made up of two twins, John and Chuck Panozzo, and their neighbor Dennis Deyoung. They would later change their name to TW4 because another band who also called The Trade Winds made a national breakthrough and they could no longer use that name.

After a lot of thought they came up with the name Styx. Later, two more members would join the band. They were John Curulewski and James J.Y. Young. In 1972, they released their first studio album that was self-titled, meaning that the album was named after the band, Styx.

This was a flop, but that did not stop them. In 1973, they released their second album called Styx II with one of their greatest hits called "Lady." At Styx's 1997 "Return To Paradise" tour, Dennis Deyoung said "Back in 1972, I was sitting in my garage at a little Wurlitzer electric piano, this song popped out and started this whole train a rollin'." and did it ever.

In 1975, "Lady" hit number 6 nn the Billboard Top 40. Later, Tommy Shaw would join the group for the tour of their 1976 album Crystal Ball. They would have many other great hits and would be the first band to get four Triple-Platinum certified albums in a row, starting with The Grand Illusion in 1977 and ending with Paradise Theatre in 1980.

The other two Triple-Platinum albums were Pieces Of Eight in 1978 and Cornerstone in 1979. Their 11th studio album, Kilroy Was Here, would create tension between Deyoung and the rest of the members of the band. They would then split up after their 12th album, Edge of the Century.

In 1997 they reunited for Return To Paradise, only to split up again. Styx found a replacement for Deyoung. His name is Lawrence Gowan. He sings all the songs Deyoung would have sung. They released another album without Deyoung in 2010 called Regeneration. The only song that sounds like the original version is "Miss America." The rest of them were butchered. Even the ones sung by the Tommy Shaw and James Young do not sound all that great.

" Maybe because their voices have changed with age or maybe they just felt the need to be creative, no one knows. The worst song on the album was originally their best song. That would be "Come Sail Away." Lawrence Gowan is a sad imitation for Deyoung. He doesn't sing anything like Deyoung.

Another one they did not do so great with was "Lorelei." Gowan trics to sound like Deyoung, but fails epically. Deyoung's voice is onc of those that can't be recreated by someone from America's Got Talent or American Idol, just like Stevie Nicks, but that is a totally different story.

Styx will never be the same without Deyoung, that's all there is to it.

Album cover for Styx's recently released album 'Regeneration.'

Photo courtesy of Styx

Like writing?
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Miller's Movies: Top 5 of 2011

BY RYAN MILLER

Production Manager

Muppets - After years of silence, it seems that Disney has been able to bring back everybody's favorite frog, bear, pig and whatever with an impressive cast lineup.

The Muppets has proven to be a timeless childhood favorite as it did exceptionally well at the box office earning $29 million opening weekend and receiving a certified 96 percent on rotten tomatoes.

This movie, although meant for a children audience, touches both the hearts of the young and old as the Muppets always have.

Filled with original songs, one of which is nominated for an Oscar, comedy for all ages and even a tear jerking scene here and there, I definitely recommend this movie to all those who are looking for a good laugh.

Rise of the Planet of the Apes - Some of you might recall this movie being on my list for top summer movies as well.

As I said before, this movie was very well done in accordance to the original Planet of the Apes franchise and set up a thorough backstory to the series.

The aspects I really liked about this were the group of cast members, the CGI technology and the way the film focused more on Caesar (the chimpanzee who started it all) rather than on the lead human character played by James Franco.

Midnight in Paris - A lot of you probably did not get a chance to see this film in theaters – mainly because it was a limited release feature.

This film, directed by Woody Alan, stars Owen Wilson as a Hollywood movie script writer who tries to start writing his own book instead while also being engaged to a character played by Rachel McAdams.

I liked this film because of its original plotline that revolves around finding a reason to appreciate your own time period and also for the way most of the film is set up. There are some very well done scenes where the actors do very well in portraying their characters.

The Help - This movie was very touching and eye opening. I personally have not read the book but expect it to be just as powerful as the movie.

For those of you who did not get a chance to see it, it is about how the maid service in the south was treated in the 1960's and how one educated women's book reveals the sometimes despicable treatment of how white southern women would treat the African-American maids, or referred to as "the help."

I liked a lot of things about this movie. The acting was done very well by all actresses involved, the overall directing and flow of it seemed to be smooth and easy enough to follow and each scene either made you laugh or it pulled a few heartstrings.

Super 8 - Another film from my summer list, Super 8, is a very well done film. As I stated in my last article, this was the definition of a summer movie.

It's a summer movie because it's about a group of kids messing around, getting in trouble by parents and even the government – all typical aspects of a childhood summer, right? Well, maybe not considering the alien.

I really liked how this movie was done too. Each scene had significance to the overall plot and was backed up by the good acting of the young actors involved.

Movies clockwise from bottom left: The Help, The Muppets, Super 8, Midnight in Paris, and Rise of the Planet of the Apes.

2012 Academy Award predictions

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ

Staff Writer

Best Picture:
- The Artist
- The Descendants
- War Horse
- Moneyball
- The Tree of Life
- Midnight in Paris
- The Help
- Hugo
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Who Will Win: The Artist
Who Should Win: The Tree of Life

'War Horse'

Viola Davis

Best Director:
- Michel Hazanavicius – The Artist
- Alexander Payne – The Descendants
- Martin Scorsese – Hugo
- Woody Allen – Midnight in Paris
- Terrence Malick – The Tree of Life

Who Will Win: Michel Hazanavicius – The Artist
Who Should Win: Martin Scorsese – Hugo

Best Documentary Film
- Hell and Back Again
- If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front
- Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory
- Pina
- Undefeated

Who Will Win: If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front

Best Actress:
- Glenn Close – Albert Nobbs
- Viola Davis – The Help
- Rooney Mara – The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
- Meryl Streep – The Iron Lady
- Michelle Williams – My Week with Marilyn

Who Will Win: Viola Davis – The Help
Who Should Win: Rooney Mara – The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Best Adapted Screenplay
- Alexander Payne, Nat Faxon, and Jim Rash – The Descendants
- John Logan – Hugo
- George Clooney, Grant Heslov, and Beau Willomon – The Ides of March
- Steven Zaillian, Aaron Sorkin, and Stan Chervin – Moneyball
- Bridget O'Connor and Peter Straughan – Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

Who Will Win: Alexander Payne, Nat Faxon, and Jim Rash: The Descendants
Who Should Win: Steven Zallian, Aaron Sorkin, and Stan Chervin: Moneyball

Best Animated Feature:
- A Cat in Paris
- Chico & Rita
- Kung Fu Panda 2
- Puss in Boots
- Rango

Who Will Win: Rango
Who Should Win: Rango

Christopher Plummer

Best Supporting Actress:
- Berenice Bejo – The Artist
- Jessica Chastain – The Help
- Melissa McCarthy – Bridesmaids
- Janet McTeer – Albert Nobbs
- Octavia Spencer – The Help

Who Will Win: Octavia Spencer – The Help
Who Should Win: Melissa McCarthy – Bridesmaids

Melissa McCarthy

Best Supporting Actor:
- Kenneth Branagh – My Week with Marilyn
- Jonah Hill – Moneyball
- Nick Nolte – Warrior
- Christopher Plummer – Beginners
- Max von Sydow – Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Who Will Win: Christopher Plummer – Beginners
Who Should Win: Christopher Plummer – Beginners

Gary Oldman

Best Actor:
- Demian Bichir – A Better Life
- George Clooney – The Descendants
- Jean Dujardin – The Artist
- Gary Oldman – Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
- Brad Pitt – Moneyball

Who Will Win: George Clooney – The Descendants
Who Should Win: Gary Oldman – Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

Best Original Screenplay
- Michel Hazanavicius – The Artist
- Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo – Bridesmaids
- J.C. Chandor – Margin Call
- Woody Allen – Midnight in Paris
- Asghar Farhadi – A Separation

Who Will Win: Michel Hazanavicius – The Artist
Who Should Win: Asghar Farhadi – A Separation

Alum in Super Bowl

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

Former Joliet Junior College football player Rob Ninkovich played in Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis on Sunday, Feb. 5, as a starter outside linebacker for the New England Patriots.

Ninkovich is the second JJC alum to play in the Super Bowl. Kelvin Hayden played for the winning Indianapolis Colts in the 2007 Superbowl.

Ninkovich has been a starter for the Patriots all season and had 74 tackles, 6.5 sacks, one forced fumble and two interceptions going into the Superbowl.

A Lincoln-Way Central high school graduate, Ninkovich credits JJC as the start of his journey to the NFL.

"Coming out of high school, I wasn't really the biggest guy, I had to put on some weight," Ninkovich said. "I had to really develop and mature, so that was the best option for me, going to JJC."

Here at JJC, Ninkovich was part of the 2002 National Junior College Athletic Association national winning team during his freshman year. In his sophomore year, Ninkovich broke the school record for number of sacks in a season with 16 that still stands today.

"He did a great job on the field," said Jason Dewolf, who was the offensive line coach during Ninkovich's time at JJC. "He played a lot and contributed a lot and was always a great force. We were a pretty solid team."

After his solid two years at JJC, Ninkovich received a scholarship from Purdue University in 2004 where he played his junior and senior year and was a second-team All-Big Ten selection during his senior year.

"Academically, he did a great job in the classroom, he got out of here in two years and got into Purdue," Dewolf said "He took advantage of his opportunity for academics at JJC so that he could move on."

During his two years at Purdue, Ninkovich secured 71 tackles, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

After his run at Purdue, Ninkovich was drafted into the NFL by the New Orleans Saints in the fifth round of the 2006 draft.

Ninkovich then went on to the Miami Dolphins in 2007 where he played for another two years before becoming a part of the New England Patriots in 2009.

Despite the Patriots' loss at the Super Bowl by a score of 21-17, Ninkovich did put in his part with three tackles, one assist and a sack split with defensive end Mark Anderson.

Photo courtesy of JJC athletics

Rob Ninkovich speaks at children's summer football camp at JJC in 2007.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Guard Brittney Smith pushes past Rock Valley College player to go in for a layup.

Weekend loss breaks streak

Rock Valley leaves Lady Wolves 9-11

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

After four losses, the Joliet Junior College women's basketball team won three straight games in the first week of the spring semester. This three straight win streak was broken by a loss to Rock Valley College on Saturday, Feb. 4, leaving their record to stand at 9-11.

Getting off to their first win of the spring semester was against Malcolm X College by a final score of 66-58. From the onset, the scoring did not explode from the gates from either team.

Despite the fact that the Lady Wolves were trailing by the end of the first half 24-27, they were able to grab the win over Malcolm X. Warren led the team in scoring with 27 points with Keairra Collins adding 17 points.

Joliet Junior College defeated conference opponents Milwaukee Area Technical College 71-52 and College of DuPage by 52-44 to bring their win streak to three.

Warren scored a team high 21 points with Danasha Jenkins adding 11 points in the game against Milwaukee Tech. Warren led again with 16 points closely followed by Collins totaling 15 points in the home game against DuPage.

Rock Valley College holds on to win over Joliet Junior College 79-58. In the game against Rock Valley College JJC fell behind early 9-20 with 10:01 left in the first half. The wolves fought hard and started a 9-2 run to bring the score to 18-24. However, by the end of the first half Rock Valley College lead JJC 28-40.

In the second half, JJC attempted to catch Rock Valley with full court presses and small runs to chip away at the lead. After each run, Rock Valley was able to extend the lead to keep JJC at a distance. This back and forth battle occurred for most of the game but Rock Valley was able to outlast the Lady Wolves.

Head Coach Shawn Sanderson gives an account on the loss and what he is looking forward to do for the rest of the season.

"We did not execute, we had a lot of built up emottons and we let that get to us," Sanderson said. "We have to regroup and we are still nursing some injuries."

The Lady Wolves fought with a lot of energy and the game had its fair share of dramatic swings, but JJC happen to come out on the wrong side of a very hard fought game.

"Everyone is out to get us and we have to protect home court," said Sanderson, "If we want to get to nationals we have to go through Rock Valley."

The Lady Wolves' next three games will be away. The next home game is against Milwaukee Area Technical College on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m.

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SPORTS

Guard Harrison Hines drives hard to the hoop at the Feb. 4 home game against Rock Valley College.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Wolves 11-7 in last 18 games

By Eric Monahan

Sports Editor

Since the Dec. 7, 2011, issue, the Joliet Junior College men's basketball team has gone 11-7 in their last 18 games. This 11-7 run has improved the Wolves record to 16-8 overall 5-3 in the N4C.

The play for the Wovles has ranged from "Our ball handling was sloppy and our shot selection was poor tonight" to "We really shot the ball well tonight" and "Our ball movement was great and that really opened up the game for us," as Head Coach Joe Kuhn said.

Kuhn said losing was not everything though. This report comes from after the Jan. 21 game against Triton Community College.

"This is one of the best Triton teams that I have seen in my years at JJC," says Kuhn. "Although we lost the game, I can see some really good things starting to happen for us on the floor. If it continues, I like our chances the rest of the way."

While the Wolves continued to play, the men dropped a game against conference opponent Milwaukee Area Technical College. The men lost by a score of 80-75. While the men had players shine such as Jon Bartlett with 25 points and Antoine Cox with 14.

"We just did not make the plays down the stretch," says Kuhn.

After losing two games in a row, the Wolves tasted victory after winning the College of DuPage game on Saturday, Jan. 28, with a score of 84-68.

"We really shot the ball well tonight," says Kuhn. "Our ball movement was great and that really opened up the game for us."

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, the Wolves defeated N4C conference Wilbur Wright College with a net score of 67-51. Cox was the main offensive force for the Wolves scoring 13 points followed by Ben Daniel and Brian Byrd both with 12 points. Bartlett also recorded 13 rebounds.

"I really like how we came out tonight," Kuhn said. "We are starting to play much better and we will be tested this Saturday against Rock Valley."

On Feb.4, the Wolves came away with a victory against Rock Valley College with a score of 84-69. The Wolves were aided with two technical fouls against the Rock Valley head coach. The two fouls ejected the coach while Cory Proctor drained all four free throws with 17:15 to play in the second half.

"It's the best we've looked in a long time," says Kuhn. "It's probably the best overall since the Prairie State game."

The Wolves' next game will be away on Wednesday, Feb. 8, against Madison College.

Male Athlete of the Issue

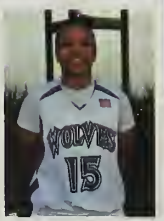
By Eric Monahan

This issue's male athlete is freshman guard Harrison Hines. Hines has helped the Wolves win the last three games. Hines has scored 12 points twice and nine points in the last three games. During these three games, the Wolves have averaged winning by almost 16 points per game. In the Wolves' latest game on Saturday, Feb. 4, against Rock Valley, Hines scored 12 points to help seal the . victory.

Harrison Hines

Female Athlete of the Issue

The female athlete of this issue is sophomore guard Celestra Warren. Warren, who stands at 5 foot 9, is quickly becoming an offensive force for the Wolves. During her last five games, Warren has scored 78 points, which averages to over 15 points per game. Warren has three games where she scored 20 or more points including a game high of 27 against Malcolm X College. The Wolves, with Warren's help, are on a 4-1 run.



Celestra Warren

Joliet Junior College

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012 VOLUME 84 ISSUE 7

College honors black history

BY REILLY WASHBURN
Staff Writer

Throughout the entire month of February, Joliet Junior College has hosted a number of events to celebrate Black History Month.

Black History Month was founded by Carter G. Woodson, a historian, educator and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People leader, in 1926. Woodson choose the month of February to celebrate Black History Month because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two men who fought for the freedom of American slaves, share birthdays in February.

Black History Month originally only lasted a single week, but in 1976 it was expanded to the entire month of February. Black History Month was started by Woodson to give African-Americans and all Americans the opportunity to learn, participate and engage the storied and important history and contributions of African-Americans to American History.

JJC offered many opportunities and events on campus ranging from the History of Africa to the History of Black Barbershops. At the "Famous Black Authors" seminar on the bridge on Wednesday, Feb. 22, a group of JJC students and staff were engaged by Jeff Bridges of JJC's Project Achieve to seek out and uncover "the roots" of the great tree that is black history.

Ruthie Leech, a freshman at JJC, was glad that JJC had provided multiple opportunities for black students to learn about their past and get involved.

"Many people my age don't

See HISTORY on page 3

JJC holds business seminars

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Staff Writer

The Business Department at Joliet Junior College has recently announced a new series of student seminars to give students a chance to learn and discuss issues that affect them every day.

This semester they have scheduled three student seminars. The first of the series has already occurred, but the second is scheduled for March 12 from 1-2 p.m. in room T-1000 on JJC's main campus. The third and final student seminar is tentatively scheduled for sometime in mid-April.

This student seminar series for JJC was begun by Bill O'Connor, chair of the business department and business law professor.

"Here in the Business Department, what we are really trying to do is reach out to students and get them acquainted with issues that affect them and that we deal with in our classes every day," O'Connor said.

Included topics are economic, legal and educational issues of which students may not be aware. These seminars are topical discussions that involve exactly these kinds of issues in a way that help students learn about and explore the world around them.

If you missed the first of the series, the seminar was presented by Margie Cepon, an economics professor here at JJC, entitled "Alphabet Soup and Bank Bailouts."

Part of this discussion covered the analysis of investment securities of financial institutions, how this tied many of them together and the domino effect this created that negatively impacted the economy.

Students were invited to attend this seminar and learn exactly what this means and how it affects them. This was no lecture but an opportunity to take a serious topic that is relevant to students where they can interact with a knowledgeable person who wants to help discuss what these events mean.

With the second seminar of the series, "Is That Against the Constitution?!" you can expect no less. O'Connor, the presenter of the event, is planning to bring some very important questions to attention in reference to current cases.

Some questions in particular include if one can be forced to buy health insurance (The Affordable Care Act Cases), the prohibition of affirmative action policies (Fisher v. Texas) and states enforcing their own immigration laws (Arizona v. United States). These referenced cases are pending among many in the Supreme Court right now and are still open for debate.

O'Connor said that the Supreme Court has the final say on legal matters inside of the United States of America. These are the kinds of things that affect our daily lives in a very significant way. This seminar is not persuasive but informative.

O'Connor said that he just wants "to make sure people understand the issues and what

See BUSINESS on page 3

Former JJC STAR tutor selected as new state sen.

Former Will County Treasurer Pat McGuire, current city clerk of Braidwood, has been appointed the new state senator from the 43rd District. McGuire replaces A.J. Wilhelmi, whose resignation became official on Saturday, Feb. 25.

McGuire was selected to replace Wilhelmi by a Will County Democratic Party committee on Feb. 25 following interviews of several candidates. McGuire is also a former Joliet Township High School school board member

The 43rd District takes in Elwood in the south, most of Joliet, Bolingbrook in the north, and a small part of Dupage County.

McGuire, nephew of State Rep, Jack McGuire, D-Joliet, is also a former tutor in the JJC STAR program. He is also the husband of former JJC faculty member Lora McGuire.

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EDITORIAL

Press conference raises questions

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-District 11) used the presentation room in the Joliet Junior College Campus Center, A-1037, for a closed press conference to discuss his support of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Kinzinger was joined at the press conference by Russ Slinkard, Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Jerry Caamano, 3 Rivers Manufacturer's Association; Tom Wolf, Illinois Chamber Energy Council; Pat Young, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150; and Tom Gross, director of pipeline and gas distribution, Pipefitters Local 597.

Before we get any further, let us emphasize that JJC was not "sponsoring" this press conference. Kinzinger's office simply asked our communications and external relations department if they could use the space and the college said yes.

What the Blazer does not quite understand is why Kinzinger's office would want to hold a "closed press conference" in a public facility. After originally telling JJC that faculty, staff and students could attend, Kinzinger's office then decided to tell JJC that because of the issue being very controversial, they wanted the press conference to be closed to everyone except the press.

This is understandable from Kinzinger's point of view because that is typically how press conferences work. Public figures typically only want the press asking questions and then the press can inform members of society through their publication or broadcast.

However, why on earth would Kinzinger's office want to hold a strictly closed press conference at such a public facility? Shouldn't anything that is not a class that people pay for be open to the public at a "community" college?

Thousands of people walk in and out of JJC every day, and the college has hundreds of faculty and staff, many who were interested in attending the press conference to hear what Kinzinger and others had to say in support of the pipeline.

Several "everybody" emails were sent across campus between staff when the press conference was announced, many questioning the use of the college for a political event. Some of them were in support, but many were not.

Unfortunately, the Blazer was unable to get in contact with Kinzinger's communications director to ask questions as to why they would want to use JJC and why they would want the press conference to be closed.

However, if they really wanted to make this press conference "closed," why not find a private facility like the congressman's office or other private facility to hold it?

The congressman and the supporters of the pipeline have every right to hold a press conference expressing their views. But the Blazer questions using JJC for that purpose, particularly considering that people who work and attend JJC were not allowed to even attend the event, nonetheless participate.

Another problem with holding it at JJC is that people who hear about the press conference being held at JJC might automatically assume that the college supports the pipeline. This would be a false assumption considering that, as stated before, the congressman's office was simply using JJC as a site for his press conference.

We at the Blazer hope that this could be an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to revisit their policies on letting political figures hold press conferences on JJC's campus, especially when such controversial and possibly divisive issues are to be presented.

Practicing safety with outdoor equipment

BY DREW WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

It is extremely important to read all warning labels on any kind of outdoor power equipment.

The reason I say this is because one night I sat down to watch the 10 p.m. news and the first story of the night was about a 14-year-old boy who was snow-blowing his parents' driveway.

The snow was wet and heavy and clogged up his snow blower. He decided to unclog the snow blower with his hand while the engine was at idle. When he unclogged it, the auger somehow began to spin before he could get his hand out.

He ended up losing half of his index finger and a third of his middle finger. Now his parents are suing Briggs and Stratton, the company that made the snow blower, for damages. I was infuriated when they said this due to the fact that this young man was lacking common sense.

It's a given fact that you do not put your hand anywhere near a running snow blower. It just is not smart. As for the labels, if they are not read, there could be harmful or even fatal consequences.

This may sound like a cliché, but it is true. Most outdoor power equipment has a sharp spinning blade that is spinning at an average of 2,500 to 3,000 revolutions per minute. The manufacturers put the black and white pictures of a person getting his or her hand severed in the snow blower or under a lawn mower for a reason – they are trying to scare you.

These pictures are not the company over exaggerating the consequences just to keep out of a lawsuit – they are doing it for the good of their customers. Everything seen on these labels could very well happen.

It is very unsafe to put any extremity in the path of the blades whether they are engaged or disengaged. If the engine is running, any limbs should not be anywhere near the blades, no matter how clogged the snow blower is.

Even putting a broomstick down the shoot is not a good idea. If the blades of the blower should catch the broomstick and snap it, little fragments of wood could still ricochet out of the shoot and end up in an eye.

The only safe way to unclog a snow blower is to grab the handle, the only place that hands are permitted on anything like this other than the gas cap, and rattle it vigorously. This should be done with the engine turned off – it could damage the engines internal parts if done while running – and the snow will all fall out.

As for lawn mowers, in most mowers the blades engage as soon as the engine starts. When they need to be cleaned out underneath, the spark plug wire should be disconnected. Then the mower can be propped up and work can begin.

Pressure washers are a totally different story. One should never wash his or her hands in the stream put out by the pressure washer. Some pressure washers can produce up to 7000 P.S.I., although the average power washer only makes about 2500 P.S.I., this is still enough water pressure to tear the skin right off of one's hand.

Please practice safety in this matter, it could mean saving a hand or foot. It is not worth losing a hand over some wet snow stuck in the shoot.

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Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Congressman hosts press conference at JJC

Congressman Adam Kinzinger

Photos courtesy of JJC Media

Different representatives line up to discuss benefits of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

On Feb. 23, U.S. Congressman Adam Kinzinger hosted a press conference on JJC's campus to discuss his support of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Five other representatives also spoke in support of the pipeline at the press conference.

HISTORY from page 1

know their history," Leech said. "There were things (Bridges) was referring to that I had no idea existed. It's definitely good that JJC provides these events, especially since African-Americans make up such a large part of JJC. I just wish it was year-round."

Her thoughts were echoed by Bridges when asked to defend Black History Month against those who claimed reverse-racism.

"I feel black history is every day, but it's nice to have a dedicated month that people can see a Black History Month commercial or a Black History Program," Bridges said. "I have a problem with Black History Month only being a month, but since we don't have enough attention of {black history} placed outside of February, we need at least February."

Bridges also discussed how the modern media and educational system can provoke stereotypes over encouraging young black men and women to grow. In a culture that can over-glorify negatives and a media that encourages youth to follow in the scripted footsteps of famous rappers and sports stars, it is a necessity to remind black youth of their origins and the men and women who risked so much to bring them their freedoms and opportunities.

Bridges said that men such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois and women such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Maya Angelou can be overshadowed by tragic ends of great potential such as Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston.

As more generations come and go since the days of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s, Black History Month becomes exponentially important in reminding African-Americans and all Americans of the innovations, inventions and contributions that African-Americans have given to this country.

When asked if the current generation of African-Americans truly understands the importance of their history, Bridges confessed that the further we get from the history, the less we seem to remember and care.

"I don't want to keep blaming the media, but I think that's one of the major problems," Bridges said. "Not only that, but (in) the education system, many important authors and historical figures are not even highlighted in most high schools.

"If you were born in 1990, you are kind of removed from a lot of the Civil Rights Movement. I feel this generation is less connected than the generation before it and that generation was less connected than the generation before it."

As we get further away from the Emancipation Proclamation and the iconic speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, Black History Month provides us with the opportunity to reflect, learn from, be inspired by, and appreciate the "roots" of the great tree of history that is black history.

BUSINESS from page 1

the arguments are on both sides."

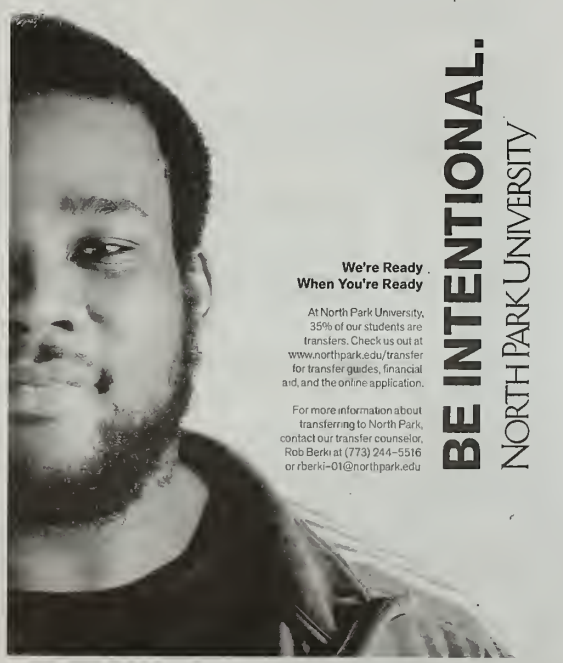
The other speakers of the seminar series feel similarly. These showdowns in the Supreme Court are just a few examples of things that occur every day that have a direct impact on each and every student.

The seminars are a chance to learn about how the Supreme Court functions, how it makes decisions and why cases like these really do matter to everyone.

The third and final seminar for this semester's series is being presented by Professor Michelle Meyer. It covers social networking and its relationship to commercial and educational fields.

"There are interesting, exciting and controversial issues and events occurring in the business world," Cepon said. "We'd like to invite students to explore these issues."

The Business Department said it is really looking forward to student involvement. They want to encourage the learning and discussion of these issues and hope to see you.



Comfort Zone not just free soup

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

Since its induction into the school, Comfort Zones have provided opportunities for free soup and meeting other students. Some of these students, including Evyn Walker, are grateful for the opportunity.

Walker, who is an employee of the Office of Student Activities, enjoys helping out. Walker switches pots, accommodates for drinks and even trades stories with other students to encourage a positive atmosphere. Walker, who roams around the comfort zone area, always seems to meet and greet with an accepting smile.

This warm and accepting atmosphere promotes the level of comfort that attracts students, which is what the OSA staff is set out to accomplish.

According to Pam Dilday, director of student activities, comfort zone was established over five years ago, but it was not until recent years that the staff decided to make it twice a week.

"It started out switching from week-to-week, day-to-day," says Dilday.

Dilday said that it would sometimes be held on Tuesday one week and Wednesday the following week. Comfort zone is now on Tuesday and Wednesday every week from the beginning of November until March.

During this time frame, students have the opportunity to mingle and have soup. The soup is free and students do not need to be shy, Dilday said. The soup and other events such as live music are all paid for by students with the student activity fee, according to Dilday.

"We try to get live student performers," says Dilday.

Dilday said that the live performers are there to enhance the experience.

"It's awesome," Dilday said in reference to when the soup ran out in 30 minutes on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Nevertheless, comfort zones are exactly that, a place to find some comfort between stress, work, school and sometimes family.

"There's no need to be shy," says Dilday. "The soup really is free."

Students can also get a free warm drink such as hot chocolate, apple cider or tea. Water is also included as an option. Comfort zones are held at 5 p.m. until the soup runs out in D-1010.

Photo by Tavia Hanrahan

Students line up for free soup and beverages.

JJC staff share India experiences

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

The second lecture in this semester's Brown Bag Lecture series featured professors Roxanne Munch, Bill Yarrow, Max Lee, Susan Prokopeak and Ram Raghuraman regaling an intimate audience of their recent trip to various parts of India on Wednesday Feb. 15 in the library.

The professors and other JJC faculty were able to travel through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The main stops on their trip were Chennai, Pondicherry and Delhi. One of the main attractions the group visited in Chennai was the crocodile park, which houses over 2,700 different species of crocodiles and alligators. Also in Chennai was the Dakshinachithra Heritage Center where artisans displayed their various wares. This is also where the group bought many souvenirs.

In Pondicherry, the group got a tour of Pondicherry University, which hosted a meeting for an exchange program and where Raghuraman's brother is a dean.

The group witnessed a commemorative statue of Gandhi while in Pondicherry. The statue was built to commemorate Gandhi's walk to the sea to make salt in an act of defiance of British rule.

Just outside of Pondicherry was an Auroville, a meditation sphere with solar panels and a shape that inspired the creation of Epcot's giant iconic golf ball-shaped building.

Once the group reached farther north, there was a larger military presence, especially in Delhi, India's capital. While in Delhi, they visited the Old Delhi Market, the India Gate and another memorial statue of Gandhi, this time depicting Gandhi hand-spinning his own clothing in another act of defiance against British government.

Other sites they went to were the Mahabalipuram Archaeological Site, the Tanjavur temple and the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was indeed a wonder to behold. Everyone visiting the great marble monument had to wear covers on his or her feet and they were not permitted to take photos.

However, Yarrow was able to video record various pieces of the Taj Mahal and point out the intricate designs in the marble. Legend has it that Emperor Shah Jahan erected the Taj Mahal in loving memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

Over the course of the trip, Yarrow took over 2,500 pictures, sharing a few during the lecture.

Toward the end of the lecture, each professor discussed his or her favorite parts of the trip.

"It was great seeing the group enjoy the food and the culture," said Raghuraman, a native of India.

"I liked getting to know the faculty. You may have talked to them once or twice before, but it was great really getting to know them over the trip, especially on the long bus rides." remarked Yarrow.

"It was such a good trip," said Munch, "I'd like to go again."

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Students sing karaoke on bridge

Pictures reveal day of fun on JJC campus on Feb. 15

Top: Students sing a duet during karaoke on the bridge. Bottom: Ashley Murray, right, and Kelsi Bertheaume, left, sing a duet.

Student gives his all while singing karoake.

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Students learn about sexual responsibility

BY KAT BOEHLE
Staff Writer

Starting on Friday, Feb. 3 until Thursday, Feb. 9, the Joliet Junior College Office of Student Activities and Holistic Wellness sponsored five different events and activities to inform the student body on sexual responsibility.

Coordinated by Amy Sims, coordinator of student activities and holistic wellness, JJC has been hosting Sexual Responsibility Week for about 10 years.

Sims said that the topics will often change from year to year depending on what the current national trends are on sexual responsibility and the College Health Assessment, which is an organization that does national surveys on college students.

"I tend to reach out to other faculty and staff around campus to identify the current issues on campus," Sims said.

To kick off the week of events on Friday, Feb. 3, was a panel discussion on HIV and the Black Community. Sims coordinated with Black Student Union and Brother 2 Brother. Panelists included Sherri Morrow of counseling, staff from Regional Care of Will County and a former JJC student whose mom died of AIDS.

The following week of events started with a presentation on HIV and AIDS, presented by the Will County Health Department. Sims said that the presentation touched on the topics of all kinds of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and how students can protect themselves.

The next event on Tuesday, Feb. 7, was presentation done by Evy Newman of campus life and Sims called Understanding Human Sexuality. Topics touched included sexual orientation, gender and sexual identity.

The following day was not a panel or presentation, but an event where Sims stood outside of D-1010 from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. with condoms and candy. If students answered a question from a list of topics including HIV's, STD's, healthy relationships and protection, Sims would give them condoms and candy.

To close the week of events was a presentation by Speech Instructor Brianna Abate on healthy relationships.

Sims said that Sexual Responsibility Week is held in February every year in part to it being close to Valentine's Day, but also because of the Bacchus Network. This is a national organization that promotes health and wellness in college students and sets a calendar every year for suggested events that Sims follows. They set Sexual Responsibility Week to be some time in February.

In case you missed any of the week's events, Sims highly recommends visiting www.smartersex.org or www.kinseyconfidential.org for more information on sexual responsibility.

Sims also encourages curious students to stop by her office any time in the D-1010 area, by emailing her at asims@jjc.edu or by calling her at 815-280-2202.

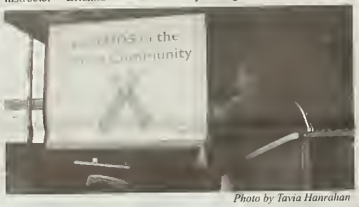

Photo by Tavia Hanrahan

Sherri Morrow educates students on HIV/Aids awareness.

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JJC Ultimate Showdown

Photos by Isom Jacobs

Top: from left, third place Jay Jones, first place Michelle Williamson, and second place Patricia Rosas. Bottom: stand-up comic Antony Sallis.

Students display their creativity

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College presented the JJC Ultimate Showdown on Friday, Feb. 24, sponsored by JJC's Student Government.

There were 19 performances including eight singers, two singers on a piano, a piano and bass duet, two dance acts, two comedians, one martial arts and one violin player.

The performers were judged by five faculty and staff judges including Margot Underwood of psychology, Brandon Jackson of multicultural student affairs, Bridgett Larkin of career services, Nicki Blowers of theater and Layton Cooper of career services.

There were also two student judges from Student Government, Bobbi Carnes and Eric Monahan.

After the judges discussed and compared notes on the performances, it was decided that Jay Jones who sang on the piano came in third place. There was a tie for first place and it was up to the crowd to claim a winner. However it was called that the audience cheering was too close to tell.

After more discussion from the judges a decision was made that Patricia Rosas, who played the violin, came in second place. Singer Michelle Williamson came in first place.

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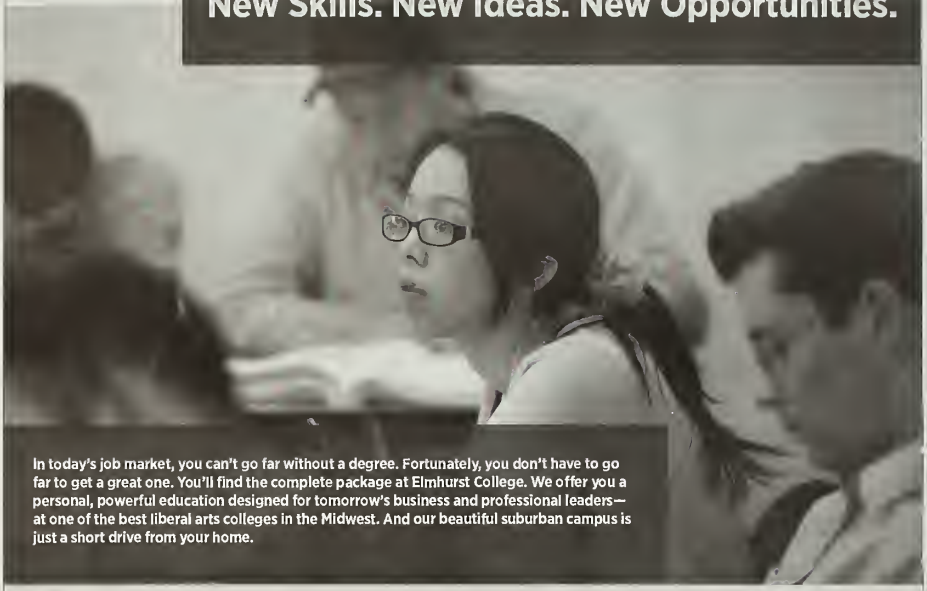

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'Spelling Bee' on JJC stage

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

For its annual musical, the Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department will be performing the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee from March 1-4.

The plot is centered on a county spelling bee with six student contestants who won their high school spelling bees.

"They're all quirky adolescents and they all learn life lessons during the bee," said Directory Clay Kirkland, head of the fine arts department.

Kirkland said he was introduced to the play a number of years ago in Chicago when he attended the play to support a JJC alum of the theater department who was performing in the show.

Kirkland said that because the rights to use the play script were only released a couple years ago, the script has been very popular in educational and community theaters.

Kirkland said that a unique aspect to the play will be the extensive audience participation. But according to Kirkland, the audience participation will be strictly voluntary. Instead of pulling participants out of the audience, Kirkland said that theater faculty will mingle in the lobby before the show to get volunteers who will be participating in the school's spelling bee.

Because of this, Kirkland said it will be a unique and new experience for the actors of the show. When choosing volunteers, Kirkland said that they will be strictly looking for volunteers with no theater experience.

With having audience members with no theater experience on stage, Kirkland said that the actors will have to adapt and do some improvising.

"It's the unknown," Kirkland said. "You never know what's going to happen."

Kirkland said that the set will be simple and that the play is very much about the music and characters instead of the visual spectacle.

"It's one of the most fun productions I've worked on in a while," Kirkland said. "I think it'll be fun for the audience too."

The cast is made of 13 individuals with two JJC alumni and the rest being current students.

"We've got a wonderful group of actors for this show," Kirkland said. "A lot of talent, lot of dedication."

Tickets can be purchased in the box office in K-building next the theater or by calling (815) 280-2200. The tickets will be only $3 for JJC students; $5 for faculty, non-JJC students, and senior citizens; $8 for general public.

Blackmill puts listener into a 'mellow state'

By Emily Gahan
Staff Writer

For those familiar with dubstep, artists like the popular Skrillrex or the typical "wub-wub" musical characteristic of the genre might come to mind. However, up and coming electronic artist, Blackmill, redefines dubstep entirely in his second album, Miracle, released on Dec. 21, 2011. Blackmill, a 19-year-old producer from Scotland, began composing trance tracks and uploading them to YouTube at age 15. His music evolved as dubstep grew in popularity around 2011. Although his music is technically dubstep, it borrows many of its elements from trance and liquid drum and bass.

Blackmill's distinctive style casts aside the harsh bass and grungy, distorted properties of a typical dubstep song and weaves together easy-listening, melodic ear candy, recently recognized as a sub-genre known as chillstep.

Those who want to listen to dubstep, but do not want to go deaf in the process, will appreciate the smoothness of Blackmill's tunes with all the bouncy kicks of dubstep and none of the usual excessive bass drops and unpredictable static noises.

Miracle begins with a powerful track by the same title. A fitting introduction to the album, "Miracle" is not overpowered by its deep, wobbly bass. Instead, a breezy piano melody takes priority throughout the song, reminding me of walking through a deserted city at sunset.

After an uplifting track called "Spirit of Life," comes my personal favorite out of the 11-song track list, "Let It Be." Featuring new electronic vocalist, Veela, "Let It Be" sounds like a lullaby but is strangely energizing all the same. The mystical lyrics make me think about defining your own destiny and striking out against the world.

The overall style of Miracle begins to take shape by the middle of the album. Each song is a whimsically composed wall of sound. Songs like "My Love" are dynamic but remain relatively steady throughout, lulling me into a mellow state.

Others are dramatic with profound, thundering notes, such as the classical elements of "The Drift."

However, not one song seems to stand out over the others. Blackmill composes his music in a way that flows together, as if all the tracks on his album could merge together to become one song. People who enjoy listening to artists that switch up their style often might become bored with the predictable beats and chords of Blackmill's music.

Piano is a main component of all the songs in Miracle. "Lucid Truth" being an example of a song where the piano is absolutely essential to grasp the feeling the music conveys. There is an earthy overtone to the album that gives me an impression of nature. By the time the last track, "Fortune Soul," begins to play, I don't want my musical journey to end.

Most of Blackmill's tunes are easy to listen to whether relaxing alone or hanging out at a party with friends. Blackmill transports the listener into a blissful world complete with a silky, twilight sound and well done build up in each track. If you have a soft spot for electronic music or just want to relieve some stress, Miracle will not disappoint.

FOX airs new TV series 'Touch'

Reviewer reccomends tuning into new drama by creator of 'Heroes'

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

High concept shows are an incredibly tricky thing to pull off in serialized television. The TV show Heroes, which had an incredible first season, failed to live up to the promise in its following three seasons.

And while many would argue that Lost holds the same similarities, it favored on delivering an emotional payoff rather than answer all of its questions in its sometimes frustratingly convoluted plot.

All of this makes the new show on FOX entitled Touch that much more intriguing. Made by Heroes creator Tim Kring, his new show again hopes to deliver another broad high-concept story along a huge cast of interesting characters.

Lucky for us, the pilot episode of Touch does not disappoint despite some flaws.

Martin Bohm (played by 24 veteran Keifer Sutherland) is a widower who struggles to provide and connect with his son, Jake, played by David Mazouz. Jake is a mute who comes off as autistic, but by not having him say a single word, the term is never spoken or even implied.

Jake does not like to be touched and he does not really ever acknowledge those around him with a few convenient exceptions.

Jake spends his time in his own little world. He writes on his notebook, has a fascination with numbers, dismantles recovered cell phones and has a habit of escaping his dad's eye at strange times for reasons beyond his understanding.

When a lost cell phone recovered by Martin at his luggage handler job sets off an interesting chain of events that span the globe, Martin realizes that Jake's obsession with a certain sequence of numbers might be a prediction to something big.

What will make a show like Touch a difficult sell for some people is the ability to trust the viewer to completely dispend their disbelief. We are told to believe that all of these convenient coincidences are possible, that everything here happens for a reason, and that this is all calculated by the mind of a 10-year-old boy.

This set-up creates some obvious plot holes as well as some characters that do not seem so defined yet, especially because the purpose of this first episode is to set up all of these events in motion for the rest of the season.

In spite of that obvious crutch, the pilot manages to be an incredibly emotional episode thanks to the strength of its actors and ability to pay off plot threads set up from the beginning.

Martin is incredibly sympathetic from the get go. Sutherland is able to portray a character that comes off as empathetic simply because he tries and fails to connect with his son.

The rest of the cast succeed for the most part, even though the actors who play the terrorists in the Middle Eastern subplot come off as completely one dimensional due to the dialogue written for them.

I also applaud Tim Kring for the clever ways he connected all of these plot lines together. Because the main theme of the show is all about connection, I hope they continue to expand on this idea as the season goes on.

Touch might be too broad for its own good but it's hard not to be intrigued on where it could possibly go from here. I highly recommended you tune in to FOX on Monday, March 19 at 9/8c when it officially premieres. You might be surprised.

Photo courtesy of FOX television

Keifer Sutherland (right) and David Mazouz (left) star in new TV series, 'Touch.'

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Denzel movie a 'safe' choice

BY LORENZO JACKSON
Staff Writer

Cape Town, Africa, is the setting for this 115 minute, dynamic, pugnacious, government action movie. The stars, Denzel Washington (Tobin Frost) and Ryan Reynolds (Matt Weston), deliver an impressive performance in Daniel Espinosa's movie Safe House.

An eye-crossing movie with a tempo fitting both big name action stars, Espinosa put the two stars together in the best possible way.

From the time the first trigger is pulled until the last shell drops, you are pressing forward in your movie seats and sofa cushions trying to decide between siding with Washington's cold blooded character or Reynolds' hopeful rookie ambitiousness.

Amongst the well-acted characters, you will discover a lot of senseless violence, especially more toward the end of the movie giving the story's climax a fully loaded peak. Many scenes throughout will surprise you – not only in the story-line's entirety, but in a few thrilling scenes (the car chase scene being one of them).

This movie has a half-baked government corruption theme to it that Espinosa throws at you as silently as a brick through glass. It reminded me of the Bourne movies with Reynolds being a copy and pasted altered version of Matt Damon's character.

I am not saying I didn't love the Bourne movies—by all means I did—but to an extent it is telling people that the government is corrupt.

So if I was a movie go-er looking for a message, I would not be at all sound in judgment to recommend it, but if you are looking for a movie with more explosiveness than a shoe bomb, by all means Safe House, which I rate 8/10 stars, is definitely for you.

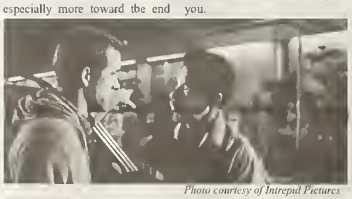

Photo courtesy of Intrepid Pictures

Photo courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures

'Secret World' receives praise from reviewer

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

Has Studio Ghibli ever made a bad film? One would not know based on the studio's incredible track record. With such masterful films such as Spirited Away, Princess Mononoke, My Neighbor Totoro and many others, the Japanese animation legend Studio Ghibli stands tall next to PIXAR as one of the very best in the business.

Even though their latest release, The Secret World of Arrietty, does not quite pack the punch of their very best works, it will still most likely rank among 2012's very best movies.

With its meditative, almost melancholy feel akin to My Neighbor Totoro, this film probably will not appeal to most kids nowadays who like their entertainment to be very ADD.

Is this movie about giant robots, a superhero, Jedi's or scary monsters that go bump in the night? Not quite, but The Secret of Arrietty centers around a family of borrowers that vacate underneath the floor of an average house.

Borrowers are simply little people who must take the journey, whenever necessary, to storm the closest house so they can take items for their own survival. They never take more than they need to. These Borrowers take things that humans simply will not miss or even notice is missing.

A young boy named Shawn moves into the household under the care of his great aunt and the house's caretaker because he is suffering from a serious heart condition. His mother used to live in the house during her childhood and when his parents are too busy to give him attention, they decide to send him there for care.

This film needs to be seen on the big screen. The 2D animation is so beautiful that at times it looks like a painting with only a small little element showing movement. Making it look 3D without the ridiculous glasses.

It's hard not to be in awe at the striking images when the film begins. As Shawn walks around the yard upon his arrival, he stumbles across a small glimpse of Arrietty, which leads him to believe that his old family stories may be true after all.

At times the plot can be so thin that it eventually becomes unimportant to the film's enjoyment. There is only enough plot and story here to take up possibly a chapter or two of a novel. The movie is more about the emotion, mood and imagery that surrounds the entire experience.

When we see Arrietty doing her first "borrowing" towards the beginning of the film, it's not a rushed sequence. It's played out to its full extent and in 20 minutes or so, perfectly sets up everything we need to know about this world and the characters.

There are quite a few times when very little story is progressing and part of what makes it work is due to the great mix of talented animators and the great use of sound design.

There are long stretches of the film where there is no musical score, but a perfectly tuned sound. Like a ticking clock, or the wind in the forest.

If there are complaints to be had with the film, it's that, as stated earlier, emotionally and viscerally, it's not quite as resonant or memorable as Studio Ghibli's best works.

And that might be due to the fact that this movie is not directed by Hayao Miyazaki, but by first time director Hiromasa Yonebayashi.

Lastly, it should be pointed out that some of the voice acting for the U.S. dubbed version, at times, can be quite off and not entirely solid performance wise. But those quibbles are minor.

2D animation does not get the attention or respect it deserves like it once did.

3D can be stellar, but when one views the lush images of high quality 2D animation, it proves that less is more. The Secret World of Arrietty comes with a very high recommendation.

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Softball

Lady Wolves look to start season strong

BY ERIC MONAHAN

Sports Editor

Altbough they are not ranked to begin the season, the Lady Wolves softball team enters the season well focused, according to Head Coach Emily Marino. That focus has showed in the early season indoor workouts.

"We look forward to getting outside and competing," said Marino.

After a difficult start to last season, the Lady Wolves season ended last year with a loss to runner-up national champions College of Dupage.

This year the Lady Wolves return only six players, three of. them being starters, but Marino remains optimistic.

"We finished strong, but fell short," said Marino. "The young players catch on quickly."

Marino said she counts on the players to be "versatile" enough to play multiple positions and fill in when needed.

Unlike baseball where players generally find their specific roles to play in the field, on Marino's team there is no set rotation. Playing time is based on performance and playing well together.

One of the six returning sophomores for the Lady Wolves is catcher Amanda Reid. As a catcher, Reid gets to call the game behind the plate and help guide pitchers through the tough lineups that they face.

"I like being able to lead," Reid said.

Reid is the team's only catcher. The remaining returning sophomores are two first basemen, two outfielders and one third basemen. The rest of the team is made up of younger players who are asked to serve in utility roles in the infield and outfield. The team also has two listed pitchers.

"It'll take a lot of work, but we're making progress every day," Reid said.

The Lady Wolves begin play away against Kankakee Community College on Friday, March 9, at 3 p.m.

"We have a lot of options," Marino said.

As the season starts and progresses, fans should see some of those options come together.

Women's basketball finishes 13-15, playoffs set

BY ISOM JACOBS

Staff Writer

With the playoffs set to begin Tuesday, Feb. 28, JJC Women's Basketball Team finished its regular season on Saturday, Feb. 25, with a tough loss to Elgin Community College. The 78-62 loss dropped the Lady Wolves' record to 13-15 overall and 5-3 in the conference.

Elgin took an early lead in Saturday's game and forced the Lady Wolves to play catch-up for the remainder of the game.

"There was a different starting lineup due to the sophomore night," said Head Coach Shaun Sanderson. "Once the regulars came in, the team settled down and we were able to cut the lead very close."

During the first half, the Lady Wolves started playing in the zone but as Sanderson says, "They were attacking the zone so we switch to man-to-man."

The first half ended on a good note with a last second buzzer beater by Celestra Warren. At the half the Lady Wolves trailed 37-32.

At the second half, Elgin started to pull away late in the game to seal the win. When asked about the future improvements going into the playoffs, Sanderson replied that he wanted to improve decision making and to avoid mental mistakes. He is particularly looking for improvement in those areas when the team is under pressure.

For the playoffs, Sanderson is looking for some elevated play in the point guard position, naming Nichelle Drayton, Britney Smith and Brianna Turner.

"That comes with the decision making," Sanderson said. "The point guards have the ball 85 percent of the time."

Sanderson said he is also considering some defensive changes. He said that he wants to use multiple defenses from a 3-2 zone to a man-to-man. The seeding in the Region IV quarter finals playoffs should put Lady Wolves at either the three seed or more likely the two seed.

Since Feb. 8, the team has gone 3-4. The Lady Wolves took down conference opponent Madison College 88-72 on Feb. 8. Celestra Warren led the team in scoring with 27 points, followed by Danasha Jenkins with 20 points.

The Lady Wolves then fell to non-conference Moraine Valley with the score of 76-69 on Feb. 11. Warren led the team with 28 points, followed by Brianna Marble and Keairra Collins, both with 13 points.

Non-conference Kankakee Community College then defeated JJC 87-53 on the Feb. 14. Jenkins scored 12 points and Warren chipped in 11.

The Lady Wolves bounced back in a big win against conference opponent Milwaukee Area Technical College by a score of 73-26 on Feb. 18. Alana Warren led the scoring with 17 points, followed closely by Adjoa Matthews and Celestra Warren with 16 points each.

JJC fell to Waubonsee Community College at home on Feb. 20 by a score of 68-52, but bounced right back in a 61-56 win against conference opponent College of Dupage on Feb. 22.

Baseball

Wolves prepare for new season

BY ERIC MONAHAN

Sports Editor

Coming off a season where the Wolves finished eighth in the nation after making their 10th trip to the NJCAA Division III National Tournament, compiling a 41-23 record, there is reason to be optimistic again about Head Coach Wayne King's squad.

The Wolves begin the season ranked seventh in the nation and will rely early in the season on pitching and defense, according to King.

"We have kids who play solid defense, kids who swing the bats and some pitchers who can throw the heck out of the ball," King said.

Pitching will need to carry the team early and allow the hitting to catch up, King noted. He expects six returning sophomore pitchers to help lead the way. Trevor Vermillion, Alex Parks, Jonathan Rosario, Jared Steck, Nick Filetti and transfer A.J. Woynerowski will be counted on heavily in 2012.

"All these guys have experience and that is a plus for us in 2012," said King.

King noted that the infield could be the strength of the team this year. Sophomores Cole Judy, Dan Eliopulos, transfer Tim Blaha, and 2-way (INF/OF) Trey Russell will lead the infield.

"All-American Dan Eliopulos and Cole Judy will be our leaders this spring on the infield," King said.

King said he will also be counting on freshmen making important contributions. Freshmen Kaleb Strothman, Mike Hamilton, Austin Vazquez, Sam O'Shea and Garret Rhodes will round out the pitching crop for this season.

Three freshmen will also make up the 2012 catching unit. They are Casey Papp, Jake Keefe and Brandon Mackowiak.

"Our inexperience behind the plate worries me a little," said King. "All three are hard workers and will be battling to nail down the number one spot."

But King is confident the new players will quickly become key contributors.

"I believe these freshmen can and will make an impact for us this spring," King said. "We're close."

King is also going to try something new this year. He will remain in the dugout and assistant coach Gregory Braun will handle third-base coaching duties.

"We're going to have an experiment," King said. "We'll see how it works out."

Strothman said the players are excited about the preseason rankings.

"It feels good," Strothman said. "I'm really excited for the season to start."

The Wolves open on Sunday, March 4, when they host Highland Community College at noon.

(JJC Sports Information Department contributed to this story)

SPORTS

Sophomore Guard Cory Proctor goes for a layup against Willbur Wright College on Feb. 25. *Photo by Kat Boehle*

Wolves hit 7-1 streak; record 21-9

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

Despite a second half surge by conference opponent Wilbur Wright College, the Wolves pulled away in the final few minutes on Saturday, Feb. 25, to win 95-86.

"It was a struggle down the stretch," said Cory Proctor, who led the Wolves with 38 points. "We came together as a sign of a good team to win."

John Bartlett added 28 points and 11 rebounds.

With the conference win, the Wolves moved to 21-9 overall and 10-4 in the N4C conference. The Wolves have off until next Saturday, March 3, when they begin regional conference tournament play in Madison, Wis. The Wolves will have a semifinal round bye due to their conference and overall records.

In a quick recap since the Blazer's last issue, JJC went on a five-game winning streak, defeating College of Dupage, Wilbur Wright College, Rock Valley College, Madison College and Harper College.

The Wolves fell to conference opponent Triton College by a final score of 96-90 in a hard-fought contest on Wednesday, Feb. 15. Bartlett earned another double-double that day, finishing with 22 points and 16 rebounds. Proctor tallied 21 points and Harrison Hines finished with 17 points.

"This game was another classic between the two teams," said Head Coach Joe Kuhn said in reference to the Triton game. "Both teams shot the ball tremendously well. The difference was that they made a few extra plays in transition and shot the ball better from the line."

The Wolves, still tasting defeat from Triton, regained their composure and their winning ways by defeating conference opponent Milwaukee Area Technical College on Feb. 18 by a final score of 74-61. The Wolves won despite "a second half flat-footed performance (by the Wolves), and a lot of hit desperation shots (by Milwaukee)," said Bartlett.

In the Milwaukee game, the Wolves started slowly on offense, but Proctor, with 21 points, and Bartlett, with 14, led the Wolves to victory. At that point in the season, the Wolves moved to 19-9 overall and 8-4 in the N4C.

The Wolves next traveled to conference opponent College of Dupage on Wednesday, Feb. 22, and came away with a sweet tasting victory, 70-49.

Proctor was the offensive force for the Wolves, scoring 26 points as the Wolves moved to 20-9 overall and 9-4 in the N4C conference.

The Feb. 25 win against Wilbur Wright ended the regular season.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

This issue's male athlete is sophomore guard Cory Proctor. Proctor has led the Wolves offensively for the past four games having obtained a total of 106 points. During the last four games, Proctor has scored 21 points twice, 26 points once and most recently 38 points at the home game on Feb. 25. So far this season, Proctor has been shooting above 45 percent from the field. Proctor has helped the Wolves to a record of 21-9 overall and a N4C conference record of 10-4.

Cory Proctor

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

The Lady Wolves female athlete of the issue is Adjoa Matthews. Matthews, a freshman guard for the Lady Wolves, has been a consistent performer all season, posting double figures in rebounds on several occasions and several double-doubles. She scored 16 points in a recent win against Milwaukee Area Technical. Matthews has helped the Lady Wolves to post a 13-15 record overall along with a 4-3 record in the N4C Conference. Matthews also helped lead the Lady Wolves into the playoffs, which were set to begin Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Adjoa Matthews

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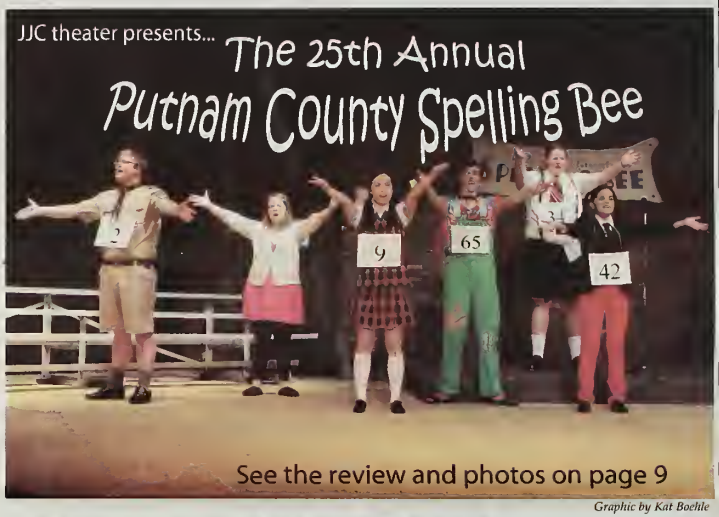

Graphic by Kat Boehle

"Spelling Bee" contestants reach out to the audience at a recent theater performance at JJC.

Jail and Bail raises over $2000

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Staff Writer

On Feb. 24, Joliet Junior College's Student Government had just concluded its fourth year of its annual Jail and Bail charity event.

This year, Jail and Bail raised $2279.12 for charity, and over the last four years has raised close to $10,000 total.

The "Wanted" posters seen on the bridge were all a part of an effort to help raise money for the Easter Seals of Joliet and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

How Jail and Bail works is that students can pay $5 to either JJC Student Government or to the Office of Student Activities and have anyone in JJC "arrested" on fake charges. Students could either choose to be anonymous or let their name be on the arrest summons.

Once the "convict" has been served, someone from Student Government would take a "wanted" picture to put on a poster that also had the charges and the amount that had to be raised. This poster goes up on the bridge and it is up to the convicted participants to raise the money for charity any way they can.

If they did not raise their bond before Feb. 24, they had to sit in "jail" as a last chance to raise the bond money.

Pam Dilday, director of student activities, said that a student once voluntarily put himself in jail without being convicted to help support charity. He helped raise money by spending nothing but his own time.

There is another interesting way to help raise money for charity through Jail and Bail. People who think they are going to be arrested can purchase a "get out of jail free" card before they are arrested.

The card costs $50 and this money also goes to charity, but saves someone who thinks they are going to be arrested from having to raise their bond.

This year's Jail and Bail was again well-supported by the college community, Dilday said.

"We couldn't do this kind of fundraiser without the generosity of the JJC community," Dilday said.

The Jail and Bail is one of many events conducted during the year by the Office of Student Activities. Upcoming events are posted on JJC's web page.

Graphic by Kat Boehle

Culinary team takes 1st at state competition

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

On March 3, the Joliet Junior College Hot Plates team earned a gold medal and first place at the state competition against Chicago's private culinary school, Le Cordon Bleu.

According to Coach Chef Kyle Richardson, this is the ninth year in a row that the JJC team has beat Le Cordon Bleu advancing to regionals. The past two years, JJC has also won regionals and advanced to nationals with last year's team taking first place at the national competition.

The regional competition will be taking place in Detroit, on April 13 through 15 where 10 other states will be competing. Of these 10 teams, only one will be able to compete at nationals.

"We're in the toughest region," Richardson said. "We'll have four or five teams in a gold medal range."

Richardson points out that multiple teams could earn gold medals at regionals, but only the team with the highest points will be able to advance to nationals.

The 2012 team has five new team members, four of which were apprentices to the 2011 national-winning team.

"They're very young, they're still learning," Richardson said. "We're making adjustments after the judges' comments (at the state competition)."

Team members include Cody Alexa, Jonathan Dockter, Kat Szymanski, Amy McCudden and Team Captain Joseph Biskie.

Richardson said that the team has been practicing two or three times a week since the beginning of the academic year. However, as regionals approach, he said that they will have to start practicing four times a week.

Richardson said that the state competition took place at JJC's main and demo kitchens.

See TEAM on page 3

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EDITORIAL

Blazer welcomes president

As seen on page seven of this issue, Joliet Junior College just recently welcomed its new president, Dr. Debra Daniels, on Thursday, March 1. Daniels was announced as JJC's new president shortly after the Dec. 13 board meeting where the decision was made.

As you may know, JJC has been undergoing a number of changes to its campus in recent years and has also seen a significant turnover in its administration.

The college has continued to implement its ambitious master plan, with many new buildings being built and renovated, despite having lost five members of its senior leadership team for various reasons. One of them was former President Gena Proulx, who died after a long illness last August.

With the changes to the campus and the continued search for new vice presidents, we at the Blazer are very happy that Daniels is excited to be on board as our new president.

Being a community college graduate herself and having spent her entire professional career at community colleges, we are very confident that Daniels will be able to fill the position well.

Daniels said in an interview with the Blazer that she would not be where she is today without community colleges and that they have always been near and dear to her heart. That is just one reason why she has spent her entire career at community colleges.

Daniels also said that her proudest moment in her career was when she created the Valley-Bound Commitment while working as president of San Bernardino Valley College in California. This program pays for an eligible, economically challenged student's entire education including tuition, fees and even books.

She said that the happiest day of her career was when she talked to a Valley-Bound Commitment student who said that he never dreamed of going to college until he found out about the program.

As mentioned in our first editorial of the year after Dr. Proulx's death, Dr. Proulx was a very student-oriented president who always had students in mind when making decisions. Based on early indicators, Daniels very clearly has students in mind as well in her position as president.

In her interview with the Blazer, Daniels mentioned that she is looking to create a program similar to Valley-Bound Commitment at JJC.

She said she is also looking forward to attending student and athletic events and has already attended two plays put on by the theater department.

We hope that the JJC community makes Daniels feel very welcome in her new position here at JJC and that she will help lead the college to even greater heights in the upcoming years.

Based on what she has said and what we have seen so far, we believe that she is off to a great start!

Blazer editor says 'Happy Pi Day'

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

Happy Pi Day, Blazer readers! Today, March 14, is the worldwide celebrated holiday known as Pi Day (3.14, 3/14, get it?). A holiday that huge science and math geeks, like me, are typically the only ones that actually know it is happening.

Yes, I know the majority of people think of pi as that evil mathematical constant that we had to deal with when estimating the area or circumference of a circle, but have you ever thought about what the world would be like if the value of pi was never estimated?

Just in case you don't know, the value of pi is the circumference of a circle divided by the circle's diameter. Basically if you draw a circle with a compass and place a piece of string around the perimeter of the circle, measure that length, and divide that length by the circle's diameter, you should get approximately 3.14159…

According to Scientific American, even the Egyptians in 2000 B.C. had recognized the constant of pi in connection to that every circle had the same circumference to diameter ratio. While the Egyptians had rough approximations of pi, it was not until later that Greek mathematicians were able to get a better estimate of its value. By the start of the 20th century, about 500 decimal places were known.

In math classes, we can simply hit the pi button on our calculator whenever we need to use it in a calculation. An interesting fact that most people don't know is that pi has been recently estimated to approximately 5 trillion decimal places by Japanese scientists Alexander Yee and Shigeru Kondo, according to the World Records Academy.

Pi is also used to approximate the volume and surface area of a sphere. So without pi, we would not be able to figure the surface area or volume of the earth or other planets, therefore it is also a key feature to the field of astronomy.

Pi is also constantly used by engineers not only because of its value being in any equation involving part of or a whole circle, but also because pi is also used when measuring angles in radians. Because of this, many equations used by engineers have pi in them. An engineering student at the University of Illinois says that she sees pi in almost every class.

In chemistry, pi can also be used when estimating the density of a wire or metal cylinder, or when determining the length of wire needed when conducting an experiment needing that element (such as a copper wire).

In the second semester of general physics, we use pi when calculating the resistance in an electrical wire.

Basically anything that involves, circles, spheres, cylinders and even angles requires pi.

Although many individuals will continue to see pi as a constant that is used in the evil subject of math, hopefully you have developed some insight as to why there is pi and just how often it is used in everyday life by scientists.

So do something today to commemorate Pi Day. I mean, come on, who wouldn't want an excuse to eat pie?

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Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Park District opens organic garden plots

By Emily Gahan
Staff Writer

The FDA reports that trace amounts of carcinogenic arsenic was found in chicken and apple juice last year. This is one of the reasons why organic community gardens are a growing response to increasing uncertainties about overly processed foods.

Local community gardens have been opening up opportunities for people to learn firsthand how to grow their own food.

The Joliet Park District has taken the initiative to do just that.

Located at 3200 W. McDonough St., the 13-acre garden will provide those in the Joliet community with a chance to purchase their own plots. Full-size plots, available at $50 for residents and $75 for non-residents, will measure 10-by-20 feet. Half-sized plots, measuring 10-by-10 feet, are also available at half the cost.

The program also hosts classes at the park district that teaches organic gardening basics by experienced gardeners. These classes will teach new gardeners about soil composition and companion planting. Classes currently meet every two weeks at $5 a session.

"We want to have a food source that is healthy, sustainable and inexpensive," said Debbie Greene, superintendent of the park district's Pilcher Park Nature Center.

Organic gardening involves natural ways of growing healthy plants without the use of chemicals. These organic methods are environmentally friendly to the planet and promote a healthy diet. These gardens are also a way a community can become self-sufficient.

"You can grow things and go home and have a big party," Greene said. "You can learn to cook these things and surround the table with a community of friends."

The growing season begins April 1 and lasts through early fall this year. Plot applications and more information regarding dates and times are available on the park district's website at www.jolietpark.org.

TEAM from page 1

To start the competition was the "skills" portion where four team members had to perform four different kitchen skills including butchering a chicken and fish, cutting up vegetables and making a pastry.

However, instead of each team member being assigned to practice a certain skill, the morning of competition, each member had to pull a category out of a hat to determine what they would be doing that day. Because of this, Richardson said that each of the team members has to master all of the kitchen skills.

The second part of the competition was the kitchen portion. The team is given 90 minutes to cook and serve a four course meal from scratch including an appetizer, salad, entrée and dessert.

The regional competition will be done in the same fashion except a third part is added where the team has to make a cold platter from scratch. Richardson said that the team has to start preparing the platter at midnight and must be able to present the platter by 6 a.m.

Richardson said that if JJC wins the regional competition, the team will be advancing to the national competition at the Marriott World Hotel in Orlando, on July 14 and 15.

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Student arrested and charged twice

For the third time this semester, one Joliet Junior College student has been charged with trespassing and other offenses.

On Feb. 25, Johnny L. Holmes was arrested and charged with criminal trespass to land, according to police.

Holmes was arrested and charged after he was found hiding underneath a bed at Centennial Commons. According to police, he was found under his girlfriend's bed when a responding officer knocked on the apartment door looking for him.

Police said that Holmes had previously been trespassed off Centennial Commons' property back in January when he was arrested and charged with domestic violence.

Holmes was then arrested and charged again on March 5 after resisting arrest, police said.

A JJC police officer was driving down Olympic Drive on March 5 when he spotted Holmes walking along the road and recognized him from his previous arrests. The officer pulled over and Holmes started running after being addressed by the officer.

After the officer announced Holmes was on campus over the police radio, another JJC officer found Holmes hiding under a tree in an attempt to conceal himself, according to police.

Holmes has now been trespassed off of all JJC property and has a court date set for April 12 at the Will County Courthouse.

Student charged with harassment

JJC student Matthew J. Weglewski was arrested and charged with harassment by telephone on March 5, according to police.

Weglewski, of Joliet, had met the alleged victim, a female, over a social media website and they both agreed to meet for lunch after finding out they were both students at JJC.

Police said that Weglewski then started sexually harassing and threatening the female via text messaging after she rejected his advances. She then reported him to JJC campus police.

Weglewski's court date is set for April 11 at the Will County Courthouse.

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Comedian visits JJC

By Ashley Murray
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 8, at 11 a.m. students may have heard many jokes and laughs when walking across the bridge. All of this is because the Joliet Junior College Comedy Club put on a stand-up show for JJC faculty, staff and students.

The Comedy Club performed until 12:15 p.m. when nationally known traveling comedian Michael Palascek took the stage and performed until 1 p.m.

Palascek has performed on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and the Late Show with David Letterman, as well as tour across the country.

"The comedy was very well organized," said Evyn Walker, a student worker for the Office of Student Activities. The OSA also supported the event by handing out free popcorn.

"This event was put together as a club opportunity," said Comedy Club Vice President Anthony Sallis. "We wanted to show JJC how hard we worked. We wanted to show the students that college isn't all work (and) that it's good to have a bit of fun now and then."

Everyone who saw the show was laughing and some were laughing so hard that they couldn't stop.

"This was more of a stress relief for students with midterms this week and next week," said Pam Dilday, director of student activities. "It was basically used to have them cool down."

When asked if she would have something like this again, she said "absolutely."

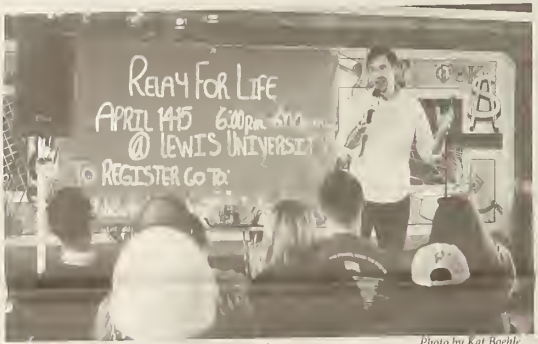


Photo by Kat Boehle

Michael Palascek entertains JJC students on the bridge.

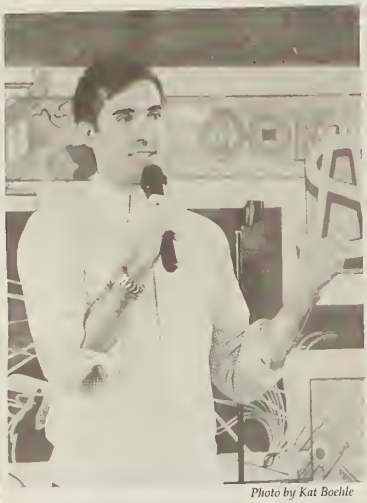
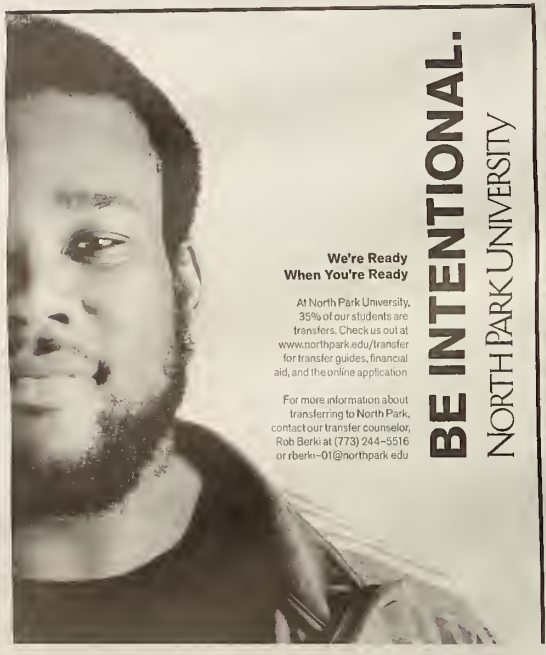


Photo by Kat Boehle

Photo by Tavia Hanrahan

Top: Michael Palascek performs. Bottom: JJC student Meg Smith tells her line-up of jokes on Thursday before Palascek performed.



Discover JJC

By Isom Jacobs
Staff Writer

On Saturday, March 3, Joliet Junior College hosted its biannual open-house known as Discover JJC. Almost 450 people came to campus with 186 being prospective students.

"We also received attendee evaluations with very positive comments about the day's activities," said Recruitment Specialist Susan Callans.

Callans said that Discover JJC is held every semester usually during November and March.

The open house was a chance for anyone in the community to come see what JJC has to offer and to help find out ways to start your degree path.

Staff from the college's departments and programs sat out at tables to give information on getting started as a student at JJC. Information was also given on how to work through financial aid and how to learn about many scholarships that are offered at JJC.

Students and parents alike had the help of tours given by JJC student ambassadors to show locations on campus like where to apply for classes and the location of other departments.

The attendees also visited the bookstore where raffles were taking place to win an iPod, a $50 JJC bookstore certificate, a free fitness center pass for a semester, or a free planetarium show.

Also involved with the Discover JJC event was the Vet Tech Open House. The attendance from the open house was close to 100 attendees. This is actually less than the past, according to Program Director and Vet Tech Professor Dr. Scott Keller. A Doberman Rescue group also participated in the open house this year.

"We showed off many of our dogs and cats, which get adopted at the end of the semester," said Keller. "Several of the attendees are interested in adopting them."

The open house included tours of the facilities with demonstration areas. This included the surgery room, which was set up as if a stuffed animal were having surgery done. The treatment area had a CPR mannequin out for display along with a dental set-up to clean dog's teeth.

"We probably had more alumni return and visit than usual," said Keller. "That was nice."

The Vet Tech Open House is something that happens every year in March.

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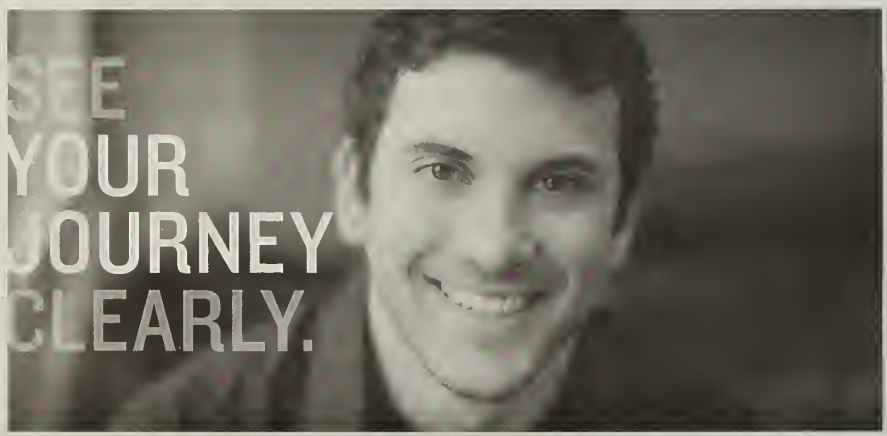

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News Briefs

Music program receives new piano

On Tuesday, March 6, the Joliet Junior College fine arts department finally received its new Steinway piano that was purchased entirely off of funds raised by the JJC Foundation's Steinway 88 Piano Key Campaign.

The campaign raised the funds by selling all 88 individual keys of the piano for $750 each. To help sell these keys, the music department sponsored a benefit concert in March of 2011 that featured staff and student musicians and even had a guest appearance by JJC alumnus and 2010 American Idol contestant Paige DeChausse.

"It is exciting to have such a great instrument in our Fine Arts Theatre, and most of all, to know that this was made possible by the whole community," said Dr. Daniela Broderick, associate professor of music. "This goal was achieved with large and small donations from individuals, organizations, employees and departments within the college."

The funds for the piano were finished being raised in December 2011 and the music department will be having a debut concert for the piano sometime in the near future.

The piano is seven feet wide and weighs 760 pounds.

Mobile vet center to visit JJC

From March 26-28, a Mobile Vet Center will be visiting Joliet Junior College to help provide counseling for college's student veterans.

This Mobile Vet Center is one of about 50 that travel all around the country and are currently visiting community college specifically. This is because the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the corporation that is in charge of the Mobile Vet Centers, is currently working on reaching out to veterans that are attending community colleges.

According to the VA, the Vet Centerprovidesmanyservices that include readjustment counseling, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling and bereavement counseling. All services provided by the center are free and open to the public.

The Vet Center will be parked outside the campus center on JJC's main campus starting on Monday, March 26 and will be leaving on the morning of Wednesday, March 28, after being open from 8-10 a.m.

For more information, contact Cheryl Hlavac at (815) 280-2623 or chlavac@jjc.edu.

Facility services building receives gold certification

The Joliet Junior College Facility Services Building just recently received LEED-LC Gold certifieation by the U.S. Green Building Counsel. This is the first building in higher education to receive this kind of certification in the nation.

The building's new mechanical and electrical systems have reduced the annual functioning costs by 37 percent and have also shown a 42 percent reduction of energy consumption.

The LEED rating system is an independent third-party source of verification that a building functions and was built in an environmentally friendly fashion. This includes verifying that the building was built on a sustainable site and that the building will help reduce energy and water consumption.

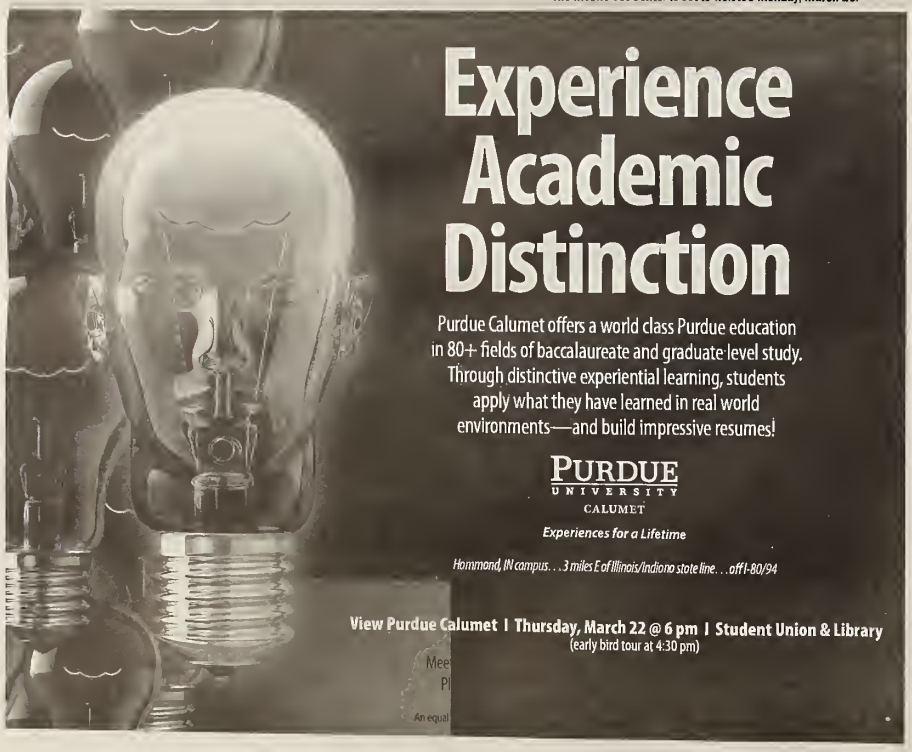
Some of the sustainable elements of the building include a reflective roof to help reduce heat intake, LED lighting in the entire building and the use of recycled and local materials during its construction.

Photo courtesy of JJC website

The Steinway & Sons piano that was recently purchased by the JJC Foundation for the JJC fine arts department.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

The Mobile Vet Center is set to visit JJC Monday, March 26.



JJC welcomes new president

By Kat Boehle
Editor-in-Chief

If you any attend athletic or theater events, you may run into a number of unfamiliar faces. If one of them is a tall blonde woman dressed professionally, you may be having your first glimpse of Joliet Junior College's new president, Dr. Debra Daniels.

After the sudden death of JJC's former president, Dr. Gena Proulx, in early August of last year, the college put together a search committee for JJC's next president. In December of 2011, it was announced that it was going to be Daniels of San Bernardino Valley College in California.

Although it was announced in December, Daniels only officially started her new term as JJC's president on Thursday, March 1.

When asked what she is planning to do for the rest of the spring semester, Daniels said that she is currently focusing on getting familiar with the community inside and outside of the college. She said that this includes getting to know the Joliet area, the four-year universities in the district, the board policies and the "ins and outs" of the school budget.

A community college graduate herself, Daniels said that she has always worked at community colleges for her professional career including briefly teaching at Illinois Central College in Peoria.

"I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for a community college," Daniels said. "It has always been near and dear to my heart."

Daniels said that this is also because community colleges provide excellent education at a fraction of the cost of four-year universities.

"Anyone who wants an education should be able to have it," Daniels said. "That's what community colleges are for."

Daniels said that she has always had an interest in JJC because she studied the college when perusing her Ed.D. at the University of Illinois due to it being the first public community college in the nation. She said that when the position as president opened up at JJC, she was very intrigued.

"It's a real honor to be president here," Daniels said.

In her whole professional life, Daniels said that the biggest accomplishment was in 2008 shortly after she started working for San Bernardino Valley College. Daniels started a program called Valley-Bound Commitment. If a high school student had a minimum GPA and was economically challenged, the college would pay for all of their school expenses including, tuition, fees and books.

"Students who never thought they could go to college could," Daniels said.

Daniels said that she is looking for the opportunity to do the same at JJC by looking at what programs there are that could work with economically challenged students.

Now that Daniels is officially a part of the JJC community, she said that she is planning to attend as many student activities and events as she can including athletic and theater events. She said that she has already attended the theater department's annual musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and the studio production, Shake Scenes.

"I'm very interested in getting to know the students as well," Daniels said. "I look forward to attending student events and knowing what students need to be successful."

JJC's new president, Dr. Debra Daniels, sits at her desk for the first time March 1. *Photo by Kelly Rohder*

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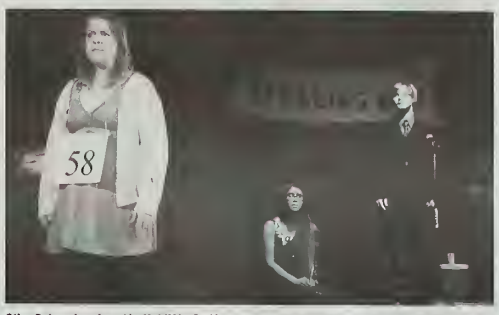
Theater performs 'flawless' musical

Mitch Mahoney, played by Travis Cisco, gives Chip Tolintino, played by Warren Dailey, a juice box after Tolintino misspells a word.



Olive Ostrovsky, played by Heidi VanDe Voort, sings musical number with her parents in the background.

Marcy Park, played by Jessica Galang, is carried by William Barfee, played by Derrick Miller, as she sings a number on knowing six languages.

Review by Gina Caponigro

Photos by Kat Boehle

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, the Joliet Junior College theater department's annual musical, took place March 1-4 under the direction of Clay Kirkland and music direction by David Nuccio.

The musical centers around six contestants of different backgrounds but with a common goal: to win the spelling bee.

The contestants featured were Marcy Park (Jessica Galang), an overachiever who spoke six different languages; Leaf Coneybear (Brent Dobrovits), the homeschooled child of hippie parents; Olive Ostrovsky (Heidi Van De Voort), the shy newcomer; Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere (Thamara Magadan), the politically-aware youngster with same sex parents; Chip Tolentino (Warren Dailey), last year's champion and William Barfee (Derek Miller), who spells his way to victory with the help of his "magic foot."

I could not find one flaw with this production. The music was lively, the cast's voices rang with great clarity and the audience participation was nothing short of hilarious. The honorary spellers had easy words like "cow" and "Mexican" while the actual spellers were delivered words they couldn't begin to pronounce, let alone spell.

During the dance numbers, some audience participants had a brief moment of paralyzing fear, while the others just went with it.

"It's a chance to get people on the stage who have never been there before and just let them have fun with it," commented Michael Schuller who portrayed Olive's dad in the musical.

One of my favorite aspects of the musical was Leaf Coneybear's close relationship with a finger puppet that acted as his brain during the bee.

"It wasn't difficult channeling Leaf's character," said Dobrovits. "I didn't have to go into a dark room and meditate. I just had to be myself."

Spelling Bee made me laugh so frequently and so fiercely that I was crying by the end of the night. Excellent work by the cast, the crew and the musical pit!

Leaf Coneybear, played by Brent Dobrovits, sings a number about not being smart.

Vice Principle Panche, played by Rob Culp, gets dragged offstage by Mahoney during mental breakdown.

Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere, played by Thamara Magadan, has mental flashback to spelling drills with her two fathers.

Theater performs 'flawless' musica

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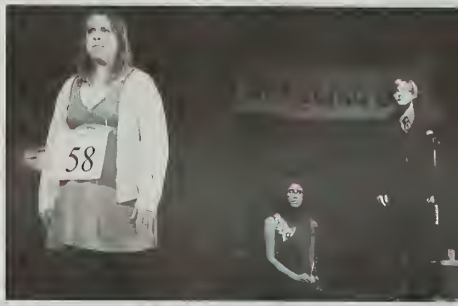

Olive Ostrovsky, played by Heidi VanDe Voort, sings musical number with her parents in background.

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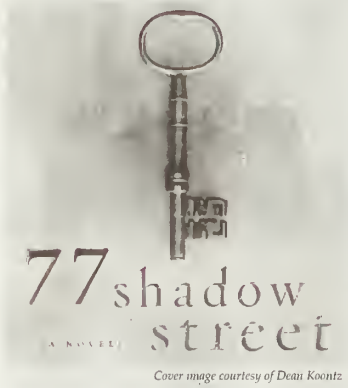
Koontz's new book will 'pull you in'



Cover image courtesy of Dean Koontz

BY GINA CAPONIGRO
Staff Writer

Dean Koontz's latest novel, 77 Shadow Street, centers on a luxury apartment complex named the Pendleton where haunting supernatural occurrences unfold beneath its illustrious façade.

Though many residents of the Pendleton claim to have heard "a low and menacing rumble from underfoot" or saw something with "pale-gray skin mottled with green and with six legs," four residents in particular have actually seen or heard this being.

The first is Earl Blandon, a disgraced former senator whose elevator-riding experience is similar to that from the movie Devil. Next we meet Bailey Hawkes, a former Marine who nearly drowns in the basement pool because of a "swimmer" who drags him under the color-changing water.

Silas Kinsley, a widowed attorney, digs deeper into the Pendleton's grisly history and soon finds a visitor in his study. But the most ghostly occurrences happen in apartment 2-A, home to Twyla Trahern and her son Winston.

While reading a book, "Winny" hears the once-dormant television whisper the word "boy." Casting it off, Winny returns to his book, only to hear the TV say: "Boy. Black hair. Blue eyes. Aboveground. Second floor. West wing. Exterminate. Exterminate."

This book is so incredibly addicting that it'll take the Jaws of Life to extricate it from your hands – you'll refuse to put it down. Dean Koontz is a master storyteller, getting better with each new novel. His excellent use of imagery and personification transports the reader to the heart of the Pendleton's nightmarish happenings.

What was interesting about the layout of the book was that Koontz titled his chapters whereas he only numbered them in his other works. The name of the chapter correlates with a location where a mysterious event has taken place like the basement pool, the north elevator and apartment 2-A. Along with titled chapters, Koontz adds in a section written from the point of view of "the One," the phantom haunting the Pendleton: "I am the One, the all and the only. I live in the Pendleton as surely as I live everywhere. I am the Pendleton's history and its destiny. The building is my place of conception, my monument, my killing ground…"

If that doesn't pull you in, I don't know what will. Though 77 Shadow Street was released back on Dec. 27, it'll make a for a great Easter basket gift.

Bon Iver breaks new ground with album

BY DAVID MANCHEN
Staff Writer

Wisconsin's own Bon Iver has been drawing large commercial success with the release of their sophomore album, the self-titled Bon Iver (released on the Jagjaguwar record label). A follow-up to the 2008 release of the self-produced For Emma, Forever Ago, singer/songwriter Justin Vernon and company have stepped away from their raw, minimalistic debut and into an album filled with everything from synthesizers to full-blown string arrangements.

One thing remains the same, and that is Vernon's haunting, almost eerie vocal delivery. The album opens up with a track titled "Perth," a reverb-heavy guitar lead opening up into what resembles a wartime marching beat on drums.

Coupled with chilling background vocal harmonies, the song leaps forward into a very heavy harder rock sound that fades out nearly seamlessly into the second track, "Minnesota, Wi." Although the latter is a great display of Vernon's diverse vocal range and acoustic guitar prowess, the pair of tracks seem mainly to serve the function of an introduction to the radio-favored "Holocene."

Definitely resembling what could be considered traditional Bon Iver, "Holocene" clocks in at over five minutes with a mesmerizing mesh of acoustics, scattered percussions and enigmatic self-reflective lyrics. With lines like, "not the needle, nor the thread, the lost decree.... Saying nothing, that's enough for me," it definitely rose above as a lyrical favorite of the album.

Other notable mentions include the snappy toe-tapper "Towers" and an emotionally charged piano-led violin-heavy track "Wash." Aside from "Calgary," a synth-driven track that upon its opening few measures would not feel out of place on the A Clockwork Orange soundtrack, the rest of the album did not seem to jump out too much and served more as transitions into the essential tracks.

This disc is definitely different than their first. It is much more stylized and at times almost over-produced, but I doubt it will scare off any loyal fans who have become attached to the sound they found on For Emma, Forever Ago.

It is definitely worth the buy, with great continuity and tracks that play very well off of one another. A great album from front to back, Bon Iver is an essential addition to any indie-rock lover's library.

Photo courtesy of Bon Iver

Film portrays ultimate party

'Project X' presents every teenager's fantasy in 88 minutes

By Ryan Miller
Production Manager

There has always been some discussion as to why teenagers act the way they do and as to why humans go through a teenage phase when many other animals do not.

According to an online article entitled "Introduction: Teenagers" by John Pickrell on NewScience.com, Pickrell says that "a teenage phase allows kids to learn about complex social behavior and other difficult skills." What better way for a teenager to learn social skills than by throwing the biggest house party known to mankind?

Project X is a movie starring two awkward high school seniors named Costa, played by Oliver Cooper, and JB, played by Jonathan Daniel Brown, who plan on throwing a gigantic birthday party for Thomas, played by Thomas Mann. They throw this party not only for Thomas, but so they can make names for themselves in the urban jungle known as high school.

From start to finish, this movie is shot from the point of view of the cast. According to the Internet Movie Database, most of the movie was either shot from cell phone cameras, police cameras, self-held camcorders and news cameras.

By the time the movie was all said and done, there was a collective 10 hours of footage that directors then condensed into 88 minutes of actual movie.

The method of the cast filming the movie makes it seem more realistic and documentary-like as well. It is also growing in popularity when you consider other films that have been recently released including Chronicle, The Devil Inside and Paranormal Activity.

The main reason, in which I can speculate, is that it is cheaper than using high resolution cameras that cost up to the tens of thousands of dollars. Another reason, in my opinion, is that it gives the viewer a sense of reality and makes it feel more real, like a documentary.

This movie was, overall, pretty entertaining. It was basically every teenager's fantasy of having the ultimate party. I didn't think it was the funniest movie of the year, but it did have scenes where I was laughing pretty hard.

One aspect that I liked is that the cast is not made up of just a bunch of well-known names. In fact, for a lot of the actors, it's their first or second big movie they have been in. For the most part, the acting was believable and pretty well done. Everybody played their part and fit their character very well.

In the aspect of what could have been different in the movie, some scenes could have been done better. I don't want to give away any spoilers, so generally it's that some scenes are a little more believable than others.

Overall, I liked the movie and thus definitely recommend it to anyone looking for that epic party experience. I just hope no one tries to imitate it in my neighborhood. My overall rating is 3.5/5 stars.

Photo courtesy of Green Hat Films

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'Awake' to NBC's new TV drama

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

It has been a long time coming. After numerous trailers and early showings of the pilot building the anticipation, NBC's new drama Awake has finally arrived. Created by Kyle Killen, Awake along with HBO's Luck are some of the best new shows in recent memory.

Starring Jason Isaacs (from the Harry Potter films and The Patriot), the delicious premise of Awake goes a little something like this. Police detective Michael Britton (Isaacs), his wife Hannah and his son Rex suffer a terrible car crash that leads to tragedy.

Unfortunate for Michael, the results become more complicated than just dealing with loss. When he wakes up in one reality he finds that his son had passed away due to the crash and his wife is struggling to cope with the events.

However, when he goes to sleep, he wakes up in another reality and finds that his son is the one who lives and his wife has passed away.

Awake has a lot to balance as a TV show. It's a procedural, a science fiction story, a fantasy show and a psychological mystery. Awake also deals with the themes of loss and guilt as well as trying to move on from tragedy.

Judging on the pilot alone. Awake balances all of these elements seamlessly. It succeeds by being a personal drama first, a science fiction second, and a procedural third.

What makes this balance work are the strong performances from the cast. Isaacs shines as Michael Britton by adding subtlety and nuance to a character that is very sympathetic.

The other two standout performances have to be the two different therapists that Michael sees in each reality. Dr. John Lee (BD Wong) is his therapist in the reality in which his wife is alive. And Dr. Judith Evans (Cherry Jones) is his therapist in the reality where his son is alive.

This element brings a fascinating dynamic to the story. The therapy sessions raise fascinating questions about Michael's psyche and the possibility that the two realities are really a figment of his imagination. This brings up the question of which one is his way of dealing with losing a member of his family.

The show never tells us which reality is real, but thanks to the brilliant use of the color palate, we can always them apart. When his wife is alive, colors tend to be more brown and clean. When his son is alive, it's much darker, showing hints of blue and gray.

It should also be noted that the show really has great ideas when it comes to the sci-fi elements. Michael is a cop and in each reality he is solving a different crime. His connection across these two realities helps in solving those crimes in a very interesting way.

Just like many great pilots, it's hard to decipher what the show will do with the rest of the season. There are so many paths the show can take that it's hard to not be excited and optimistic about its future.

One final positive is that the second episode keeps up the momentum and even has a twist that you won't see coming. Check out Awake at NBC on Thursday nights at 10/9c

Star of Mad Men Jon Hamm. *Photo courtesy of AMC*

Top five *Mad Men* episodes

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

One of the best shows on television finally returns on March 25. Mad Men, the four time Emmy award winning show on AMC, is a show that should be watched by everyone. It's full of style and great characters and it captures a place in time in a way that far exceeds most films released.

In celebration of the Season Five premiere, here is a list of the five best episodes (in order) that the series has shown so far.

The Suitcase (Season Four, Episode Seven) The story is simple. Don Draper and Peggy Olson work overtime to make a Samsonite ad on the night of the famous Muhammad Ali vs. Sonny Liston fight.

However, the masterful accomplishment of The Suitcase is that all of these elements are the backdrop to showing the bond that grows between Don and Peggy throughout this night. They fought, they revealed secrets and they saw each other at their lowest low.

The feelings they have for one another were never as clear as they were in this episode. The closing scene showed the possible relationship they could form if given the chance.

Shut The Door. Have a Seat (Season Three, Episode 13) Mad Men episodes aren't really plot-driven, but the Season Three finale certainly was – and it was dynamite. The ad agency Sterling Cooper was bought at the end of Season Two. However, with the reveal of the company merger towards Season Three's end requiring a change, Don Draper and the gang decide to leave and start their own agency.

This was a great set up for Season Four, as this led to an exciting finale that prepared for the show to start with a clean slate for these characters.

The Wheel (Season One, Episode 13) The Season One finale really hit a home run with a lot of great payoffs, especially for a first season that was not exactly perfect.

The standout moment that makes this one of the best episodes of the show is Don Draper's pitch for Kodak. He delivers a beautiful pitch that talks about family, nostalgia and the great memories we keep inside.

Guy Walks Into an Advertising Agency (Season Three, Episode Six) A lawn mower, a Dr. Pepper machine and British ad men – these are the three elements that you will take away from with this memorable episode.

After being bought at the end of Season Two, Sterling Cooper gets a nice surprise visit from the British agency that bought them. Hilarity ensues as this simple visit becomes more hectic and complicated than anyone expects.

Nixon vs. Kennedy (Season One, Episode 12) The episode's title reveals one of the main focuses of the story: the famous Kennedy and Nixon election of 1960. But how that affects these characters is not the main driving force of this great episode.

Pete Campbell challenges Don Draper to reveal the secrets of his past if he doesn't give him the job he wants. The story reveals the past of Don Draper's tragic experience in WWII as his old persona Dick Whitman.

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Wolves season ends in heartbreak

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball season ended when they fell to Milwaukee Area Technical College of Wisconsin in the Region IV championship game by a final score of 87-85.

"It is always tough when you lose in the playoffs especially when you feel you should have won," Kuhn said recalling the 2-point defeat to Milwaukee Area Technical College and the game-winning 3-pointer that was missed as the buzzer sounded.

Cory Proctor had a team-high 21 points, Jon Bartlett tallied a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Brian Byrd scored 13 points and Shazzon Mumphrey tallied 12 points.

"We made a great comeback at the end, but fell just short," said Kuhn. "We scored enough points to win, but we lost due to a bad defensive effort and poor shot selection in the first half."

The Wolves had previously defeated Lorain County Community College of Ohio with a final score of 102-51 in the Region IV semi-final held at Madison College on March 3.

Bartlett led the Wolves offensively and defensively with a double-double scoring 20 points and accruing 13 rebounds. Proctor scored 19 point, while Ben Daniel finished with 16 points. Mumphrey and Reomey Northington both scored 12 points each and Harrison Hines added 11 points.

"I thought that we came out and shot well right away," Head Coach Joe Kuhn said.

The Wolves finished out its season with a 22-10 overall record and a 10-4 N4C conference record.

Kuhn also said that the Wolves had an overall very good season and look forward to continuing that success next year.

"We will have a good nucleus to start with and will have to add new players," Kuhn said.

The new players will have to replace the production from sophomores Proctor, Bartlett, Byrd, and Northington.

"Whenever a young man can have success and move on we are extremely happy for them," says Kuhn. "It's what they came here for."

Photo by Kat Boehle

Sophomore guard Corey Proctor drives around Rock Valley defender earlier this season.

Womens basketball

Season ends with loss against Rock Valley

BY ISOM JACOBS
Staff Writer

The women's basketball season ended on March 4 when the Lady Wolves fell in the rematch against Rock Valley College by a score of 83-65.

"We wanted to take other players out of the game," said Sanderson, "We could stop one of their big post but not both, and we fought hard but came up short. The (Rock Valley) shot 31-38 points at the free throw."

The Lady Wolves had previously defeated Madison College with the final score of 64-48.

"We played with a chip on our shoulders," Sanderson said. "In an interview Madison College women's basketball team, (they) said that the Lady Wolves were easy to beat."

The game started off close, but the Lady Wolves lead for the majority of the game. At the end, JJC pulled away to keep the game out of reach. Michelle Drayton stepped up for this game making 5 of 6 shots and played solid defense.

"The biggest reason for the win was teamwork, hard work and dedication," said Guard Britney Smith.

The Lady Wolves' season ended with a final record of 14-16.

Alana Warren and Brianna Marble are expecting to do a lot next year as returning sophomores.

"Both have the ability to score," said Sanderson. "Brianna is a good rebounder, Alana Warren (is a) good passer."

The scoring leaders for the whole season were Celestra Warren with 18.3 points per game, at 10.5 Keairra Collins, and with 8.2 points per game is Danasha Jenkins. The leaders in rebounds are Celestra Warren with an average of 7.5 rebounds per game, followed by Brianna Marble with an average of 5 rebounds.

Jenkins lead the team in 3-point percentage at 33 percent while draining 28 3-pointers. Collins with the most three point shots, 63 and with the percent of 27 percent; the team average 27 percent from down town.

Warren is the N4C conference player of the year and NJCAA all regionals.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Sophomore guard Celestra Warren goes for a contested layup against Elgin Community College earlier this season.

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March 30 ~ 3 p.m. vs Olive-Harvey
April 3 ~ 3 p.m. vs Kankakee CC
April 5 ~ 3 p.m. vs Oakton CC
April 6 ~ 12 p.m. vs Carl Sandburg

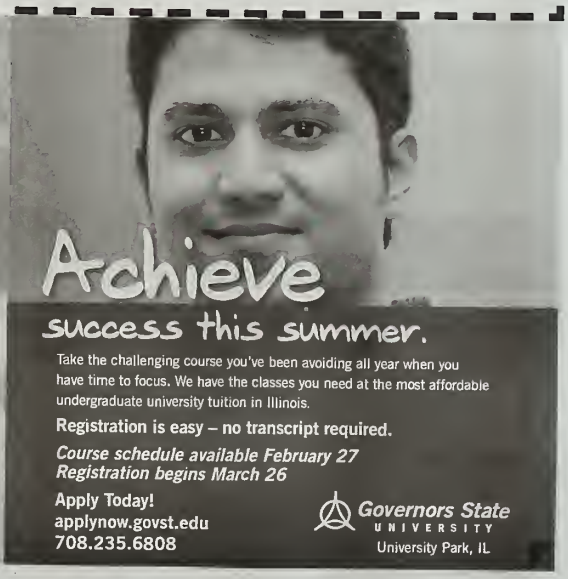
Softball

March 14 ~ 3:30 p.m. vs Sauk Valley
March 23 ~ 3 p.m. vs Madison College
March 30 ~ 3 p.m. vs Harper College
April 2 ~ 3:30 p.m. vs McHenry CC
April 4 ~ 3 p.m. vs Elgin CC
April 5 ~ 3 p.m. vs South Suburban
April 13 ~ 3 p.m. vs College of Dupage
April 16 ~ 3 p.m. vs Moraine Valley
April 18 ~ 3 p.m. vs Kankakee CC

Play Soccer?

The JJC women's soccer program is currently recruiting soccer players for the fall 2012 season.

Contact Head Coach Gino DiNardo at gdinardo@jjc.edu (815) 325-7909



SPORTS

Pitcher Kaleb Strothman, left, and outfielder Trey Russell, right, compete against Illinois Valley Community College on March 8.

Photos by Kat Boehle

Weekend split leaves Wolves 5-5

BY ERIC MONAHAN

Sports Editor

After splitting a home doubleheader on March 11, the Joliet Junior College baseball team finds its record even at 5-5. The Wolves split against Elgin Community College on Sunday, winning the first game 5-2 and dropping the second game in an extra inning, 6-4.

Pitcher Trevor Vermillion struck out six over six and one third innings to pick up the win in the first game of the doubleheader. Vermillion picked up his second win of the season.

The Wolves were led by Cole Judy who had two hits including a three-run double in the sixth inning that made the score 4-2.

In the second game, despite the Wolves' pitchers recording 11 strike outs, the defense let them down.

Defensively, the Wolves committed four errors that would lead to two unearned runs, which ultimately cost them the game.

Before Sunday's games, the Wolves lost its doubleheaders on both Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10. This moved the Wolves to 4-4 overall.

With those four loses, the Wolves would go back to its first four games to seek a way to win. The last win on their 4-0 winning streak was to Illinois Valley Community College on March 8.

Defeating IVCC was not an easy task, but the Wolves escaped with a two run victory with a final score of 5-3. Offensive standouts were limited with no player over two hits. The offensive force for the Wolves was in the early to middle innings tallying one run in the third inning and three runs in the fourth inning.

All the points belonged to the Wolves until a string of errors on groundballs, walks and singles let IVCC back into the game by making the score in the eighth inning 5-3.

Pitching standout was Kaleb Strotham who pitched three innings of shut-out baseballs.

Before IVCC, the Wolves had also won over Triton on March 6 and 7 with final scores of 2-0 and 3-0. They also won their opening game against College of Dupage on March 5 with a final score of 1-0.

With the Wolves losing five of the last six games, Strotham looks at it as a learning experience.

"We learned that we're not as good as we thought," said Strotham. "But now we know what we (need) to improve to win more baseball games."

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

This issue's male athlete is sophomore pitcher Trevor Vermillion. In his last two starts, Vermillion has 19 strikeouts while only allowing four runs over 12 1/3 innings. Vermillion also has two hits and a walk in six at-bats with an RBI. Vermillion is hitting over .300 and has an on-base average of over .400. As a pitcher, he has an earned run average of less than three runs per game.

Trevor Vermillion

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

This issue's female athlete is sophomore forward Kaeirra Collins of the women's basketball team. Collins, who played in all 30 games this season, made over 100 combined two- and three-point shots. Collins had a season-high of 28 points in a single game and averaged over 10 points a game. Collins was consistent in the Lady Wolves' playoff run as she matched her regular-season average of 10 points per game.

Kaeirra Collins

Joliet Junior College

BLAZER

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012 VOLUME 84 ISSUE 9

JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels speaks at the Relay for Life event held at Lewis University. *Photo by Sarah Lake*

Students help raise $4000 for Relay

BY SARAH LAKE
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 14, five Joliet Junior College teams joined students from Lewis University and University of St. Francis for the North Will All-College Relay for Life. The annual event, held at Lewis University's field house in Romeoville, is expected to raise an estimated $35,000, over $4,000 of which was raised by JJC students, for the American Cancer Society.

During the weeks leading up to the overnight relay, the five JJC teams worked to raise money. Nursing student Lisa Lindaur credited her very generous friends and family, including her kids, for helping her to reach the top spot for individual fundraising of the whole event.

"It was really dependent on everyone else," said Lindaur. "My kids, especially my (10-year-old) twins, they got $100 each for their birthdays and asked me if they could donate it to my team. I suggested doing a bake sale instead, and they raised $140."

Smartie Pants 4 A Fighting Chance, JJC's Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Students also held a bake sale to help meet their $1,500 goal. Captain Kayla Evans said the relay events are fun and that honors students and PTK members volunteered to provide the baked goods for the sale. The team also opted to sell snacks, water, tamales and freshly popped popcorn during the night of the event.

According to the ACS, 1.6 million people in the United States will face a cancer diagnosis this year and more than 65,000 of those people will be diagnosed here in Illinois.

Cancer patients and their families overwhelmingly turn to the ACS after a cancer diagnosis. The organization responds by offering 24-hour support to these individuals and their caregivers through a variety of programs funded largely by Relay for Life events that take place in communities aeross America.

Saturday's event began at 6 p.m. and ran until 6 a.m. because "cancer never sleeps." Opening remarks by presidents at the three colleges remembered JJC's Dr. Gena Proulx, who died last August after a three-year battle with cancer.

The relay was soon underway with the first lap being walked by survivors. Students cheered and clapped, celebrating the survivor's courage and victory as they passed by.

While walkers and runners filled the track, other teammates prepared and offered a variety of snacks, drinks, games and even jail time – for a price.

Some of the children attending with their parents opted for face-painting and beads to track how many laps they had walked, and students enjoyed having their friends "arrested" and put into "jail" (at a cost), then waiting for someone to bail them out with a donation.

Luminaria, bags lit with glow-sticks and decorated with the name of a cancer patient, surrounded the track at 9 p.m. Hundreds of students fell silent to remember the courage of those who battled cancer, and students and staff from JJC quietly walked a lap in memory of Proulx.

For Amy Sims, coordinator of Student Activities and Holistic Wellness at JJC and event coordinator, the event was personal as she worked to remember Proulx throughout the event. The former college president was described by Sims as a strong supporter of the Relay for Life.

See RELAY on page 3

Tuition increase set at $4

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

The Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees approved a $4 per credit tuition increase for the fall of 2012 at the April 10 board meeting.

The main reason given for the tuition increase was to raise funds to help maintain college facilities and student needs for the next fiscal year. Lower-than-expected enrollment this year helped to create an almost $1 million shortfall this year.

Being the first item to be discussed on the meeting agenda, Trustee Mike O'Connell was the first to speak up about the topic.

O'Connell was against the increase, saying that he was not against tuition increases, just did not feel like they had to increase

See TUITION on page 3

JJC creates first study abroad program

BY KAT BOEHLE
Editor-in-Chief

Joliet Junior College has given its students plenty of study-abroad opportunities since 1988 through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs. However, for the first time JJC has helped create its own study-abroad program with College of Lake County.

This May, 13 students from JJC and 13 students from the CLC, along with Dr. Nataliya

See STUDY on page 3

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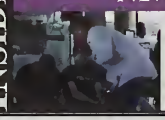
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EDITORIAL

'Get your green on' here at JJC

Coming on Sunday, April 22, the world will be celebrating Earth Day, a day where communities around the globe hold events to increase global environmental awareness and share tips on caring for the earth.

We are pleased to note that JJC is not only taking part in the celebration, but that it is already doing many things to create a college environment of sustainability.

JJC will do its part on Monday, April 23, to commemorate Earth Day. Pam Dilday, director of student activities, said JJC will be doing a number of things this year, including the annual Recycled Art Show where you can vote for their favorite art that has been created using recycled materials.

Various clubs and vendors will also be on the center and south bridge to display various sustainability items. The movie Planet in Peril *will also be shown on the* center bridge TV from 10-12 p.m., and JJC's Student Government will also be on the bridge with the "Wheel of Sustainability," where students have a chance of winning a free t-shirt.

Vuk Vujovic, director of sustainable design of Legit Architects, will also speak on center bridge at 1 p.m. about the sustainable construction that was done for JJC's Master Plan.

We at the Blazer are very happy to see JJC pulling all of this together for Earth Day. In recent years, the college has often cited sustainability as a goal, and this event helps prove that JJC actually walks the walk.

Obviously, this event is not the only thing that JJC has been doing recently to become a green institution. All of the buildings that have been built in the college's Master Plan have been LEED certified, including the Facility Services Building outside J-building. LEED stands *for Leadership in Energy* and Environmental Design. It is a designation awarded to institutions who build "green" buildings. The Facility Services Building is the first Gold-Certified building in higher education in the nation.

It was also recently announced that the college received a grant to expand its recycling program because of a recycling grant it received last summer. This grant will allow the college to place more recycling bins around campus to promote more recycling.

The college currently recycles 66 percent of its waste, according to the JJC website. With the expanded recycling program, the college will be able to increase that percentage to 76 percent.

The college's green movement is by all means not a recent event. The college started its recycling program more than 20 years ago back in 1989. Some colleges in the state do not even have co-mingled recycling bins in 2012.

JJC is putting in a lot of effort into being a sustainable public institution, so we as students should put in some effort too. Whenever you get a drink from the vending machine, throw that bottle in one of the many co-mingled bins around campus instead of the garbage.

The Office of Student Activities, Student Government and various clubs have put a lot of effort into creating the extravagant Earth Day event, so stop by one of the booths. Learn some sustainability facts and win a free t-shirt.

The Earth Day events do not stop on April 23 – there will be movies on different topics of sustainability every Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. in the Campus Center Presentation Room in A-1061 until the end of the semester.

Keep in mind that the earth has done so much for people, so we should start paying it back by following JJC's lead and decreasing our carbon footprint.

BLAZER STAFF

Kat Baehle
Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Miller
Production Manager

Eric Manahan
Sports Editor

Tavia Hanrahan
Advertisement Manager

Carlas Williamsan
Bryan Lockie
Copy Editor

Melissa Magnus
Photo Editor

Staff Writers:
Antonio Perez, Isom Jacobs, Ashley Murray, Sarah Lake David Manchen, Hunter Thomas, Adriana Vazquez Chalisse Breeden, Sara Weston, Drew Williams, Emily Gahon, Lorenzo Jackson, Michael Schuller

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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The importance of Women's History Month

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Staff Writer

This last March, Joliet Junior College celebrated Women's History Month with a number of events to remind students of women's history.

President James Carter delivered a message in 1980 that deseribes its importance very well.

"From the first settlers who eame to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation," Carter said. "Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

"As Dr. Gerda Lerner has noted, 'Women's History is Women's Right.' – It is an essential and indispensable heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort, courage, and long-range vision."

In the modern United States of America we have come a long way towards equality, but celebrating our history is part of what keeps that forward momentum.

Women have been struggling for this month as recently as the '70s when women's history was virtually unknown in schools. The first Women's History Week was celebrated only by Sonoma County California in 1978. The success of this week fueled the inspiration for a National Women's History Week. By 1986, 14 states declared March as Women's History Month.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. This congressional decision was a major step towards the empowerment of women. There is an organization called the National Women's History Project whose goal is to empower women and spread a wealth of knowledge about Women's History Month.

According to NWHP, "History helps us learn who we are, but when we don't know our own history, our power and dreams are immediately diminished... Recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life – science, community, government, literature, art, sports, medicine – has a huge impact on the development of self-respect and new opportunities for girls and young women."

Being one of the most important organizations for women's history, the NWHP selects a theme for every Women's History Month. The theme for 2012 is Women's Education and Women's Empowerment.

As part of the JJC community, it is easy to understand the importance of education. For a long time, women were not educated at the same level as men were and women fought hard to gain the right to an education.

It was only in 1972 that legislation was enacted to prevent gender discrimination by federally funded institutions. This year's theme is a tribute to that struggle and a reminder that the equal opportunity to learn should not be taken for granted.

Women's History Month is not just a celebration of history, it's a time to reflect on the hard work that others have done not so long ago that has made our life experiences the way they are today. It is a reminder to not take that hard work for granted, and to make the best of the opportunities presented by the past.

AWARDS from page 5

third-place photo spread, third-place and honorable mention for advertising design, honorable mention computer graphic, and honorable mention sports photo.

First-place news for her coverage of the child pornography story in April; first-place editorial was this year's editorial on the state's "60 by 25" goal; first-place sports feature was on her feature on Rob Ninkovich, JJC alumnus, in the 2012 super bowl.

Former Sports Editor Carlos Enriquez also won third-place for his sports news coverage on the 2010-11 basketball team going to nationals and third-place for his opinion on Earth Day.

Current Sports Editor Eric Monahan won second-place for his sports opinion on sportsmanship and third-place for his sports feature on Wayne King celebrating 25 years at JJC.

Copy Editor Carlos Williamson also won honorable mention for his feature on Student Government.

RELAY from page 1

"She was very passionate about it – her personality was very dynamic," Sims said. "Once she was diagnosed, she presented herself not only as the president of the institution but also as a cancer patient. You saw it full circle with her – not only was she a supporter, not only was she a giver, she was also a recipient [of services]."

It is the services provided by the ACS that are so incredibly helpful to patients, survivors, and their families. Courtney Manning, the ACS representative who helped to coordinate the All-College event described Relay for Life events as the largest fundraising event for the ACS, raising $4 billion for research and services since its inception in 1985.

"Ninety-four cents of every dollar raised goes directly back to our mission," Manning said.

Of that, 73 percent is funneled into research and support services for patients including transportation to and from treatment, lodging during treatment, cancer education classes for patients and their families and free wigs. There are also programs such as Look Good... Feel Better, which provides new makeup and help coping with "appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment."

It is not too late to donate to one of JJC's teams and you can do so by contacting Amy Sims in the Office of Student Activities and Holistic Wellness.

It's also not too early to begin planning your team and fundraising strategy for next year's Relay for Life event because "there is no finish line until there is a cure."

STUDY from page 1

Marchenko from JJC's business department and faculty member from CLC, will be studying in Matsuyama, Japan. Berta Arias, coordinator of international education, said that this is the most students JJC has ever had study abroad in one location at the same time.

However, the three weeks in Japan will not be all fun and games. Arias said that students will be either taking Economics 103 or a psychology class. Class work will not only be done while in Japan, but also before and after the trip.

While in Japan, students will be learning about the language and culture along with whatever class they decide to take.

"I try to give opportunities to faculty and students to enhance world understandings," Arias said.

Although the study abroad programs cost more than staying at JJC to take classes, Arias points out that if a student were to study abroad through a four-year university, it cost twice as much.

However, not all attending students have to pay the full fee for the trip. On Thursday, April 12, 10 of the 13 JJC students attending the Japan trip were awarded with $500 award scholarships that were presented to them by JJC President Dr. Debra Daniels and Vice President of Student Development Valerie Robison.

Arias said that they were able to offer these scholarships to students because of the same grant that allowed them to develop the program in the first place. Creating the study abroad program was one of the objectives of the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant that was awarded to JJC.

While Japan is the main focus for study abroad this year, there are many other locations for students to study for a semester including Austria, Spain, Costa Rica, Ireland and England.

"Study abroad is so important because it opens doors," Arias said. "It shows that you've experience another culture, making you so much more marketable in the professional world."

Next year, Arias said that they have already planned for another summer program to travel to Jordan. She also said that another trip to Japan has also already been planned for next summer.

"Start saving your money!" Arias said.

Arias encourages any student who is interested in studying abroad to contact her for more information at barias@jjc.edu or at 815-280-2270. You can also stop by the international education office at J-2020.

TUITION from page 1

the tuition every year.

"I believe there's a time and place for tuition increase," O'Connell said. "We hit the students hard last year. We've hit the community hard."

Trustee Jeff May was the first to speak up in support of the tuition increase. He corrected O'Connell pointing out that there was no increase in tuition last year. He also said that while he would have preferred a $3 increase, he was willing to support the $4 increase because student representatives indicated at the March board meeting that students could absorb up to a $4 increase.

"I thought the administration made a balanced recommendation given the circumstances," May said.

Trustee Bob Wunderlich then spoke up to ask Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark what the student body and Student Government felt about the tuition increase.

"Initially I will say that they didn't see why there was an increase – they didn't understand everything and weren't for the increase at all," Randolph-Clark said. "But after further discussion about what the college was going through, that's where they decided that we did have to come together and accept the tuition increase of $4."

Randolph-Clark then said that they were not happy about the increase, but they knew that they had to step up to the plate for the college.

"When student government came before us at our board meeting they basically told us what they did not have a problem with," said board Chairwoman Barb Delaney said. "If the students are willing to take the brunt of it with all these new buildings, I do realize that the administration and everyone are collectively trying to find ways to save money. We have to start somewhere."

Randolph-Clark then mentioned that before Student Government made the decision, they were able to talk to a lot of students from other schools. She said that after talking to the other students, Student Government felt that a $4 increase was good compared to what they observed from the responses from other schools.

Before the board voted on the decision, Trustee Susan Klen said that this would be her first time voting for a tuition increase. She stated the reason she has never voted for it in the past was because she always felt that it was "too easy to stick it to the students."

Despite being initially against the tuition increase, O'Connell voted in support of the tuition increase, making it a unanimous vote of 8-0 to increase tuition.

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Hypnotism with a side of comedy

By Emily Gahan
Staff Writer

When someone thinks of hypnotism, the occult and psychology might come to mind. While the effectiveness of hypnotism is debatable, seeing is believing when it comes to comedy hypnotist Fred Winters.

Winters made his appearance at Joliet Junior College's center bridge last month, hypnotizing students from the audience and prompting them through one silly antic after another.

Hilarity ensued at the March 14 show when hypnotized students seemingly believed an impending alien invasion, that they were 200 years old and that they were at a petting zoo with the audience as the animals.

"I don't remember how I felt," one participant exclaimed, when just moments before Winters convinced the group that their shoes were phones and they had to answer them. With over 2,000 audiences put under his spell so far, Winters has a flair for entertaining during his presentations.

He began his accomplishments as a hypnotist by practicing on his dorm mates and friends and now travels to college campuses to mystify students and make them laugh.

"It beats working," Winters said. However, the secret of hypnosis is not that mysterious. Winters pointed out that the receiver of the hypnosis must have an open mind and a willingness to believe it will actually work. Notably, not everyone Winters attempted to hypnotize was put in a trance.

A few skeptics were not convinced, but the majority of volunteering students were put under quite easily, some even slumping over as if they were sleeping.

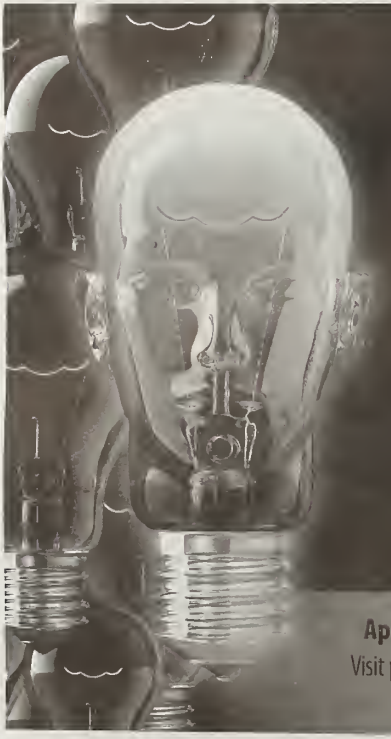
Winters sells a line of do-it-yourself hypnosis CDs, tailored to help with stress and even studying. Who knows, perhaps you can now persuade yourself to stop procrastinating on that research paper.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Hyponotized student thinks he is 200 years old and is assisted to stand by peers.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Hypnotist Fred Winters makes students perform hilarious stunts.



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From left: Adviser Bob Marcink, Advertising Manager Tavia Hanrahan, Sports Editor Eric Monahan, Editor-in-Chief Kat Boehle and Production Manager Ryan Miller.

Blazer takes home 19 total awards at ICCJA competition

At the 37th annual Illinois Community College Journalism Conference, your very own Blazer student newspaper brought home 19 total awards, totaling more than any other community college newspaper in the state.

The conference took place on March 29 and 30 and was hosted by Malcolm X College in Chicago. The ICCJA conference gives its 23 member schools the chance to enter various stories and photos, as well as their newspaper as a whole, into a competition.

There are three divisions in the competition and newspapers are placed into their division by how often their newspaper is printed and how many students are at their school. The Blazer lies in Division II, which includes tri-weekly and monthly newspapers with more than 5,000 students, which is the largest division in the competition.

Having previously won first-place for the Mark Foster Award for Overall Excellence last year, the Blazer brought home third-place for Overall Excellence this year being topped by Harold Washington College and Illinois Central College.

A number of members of the Blazer staff won 18 individual awards.

Of the individual awards, Production Manager Ryan Miller most notably won first-place for layout, something that has not been achieved by a student of Joliet Junior College in a number of years.

Editor-in-Chief Kat Boehle brought home 12 individual awards. This includes first and second place in both news and editorial categories, first-place sports feature, second-place sports news, second-place feature,

See AWARDS on page 3

Writing center expands hours with workshops

By Michael Schuller
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College Writing and Reading Center has been busy this semester, and they are still going. They have been available for tutoring, college essays, scholarship essays, letters of application or transfer and have even hosted various informative workshops.

On main campus, the Writing and Reading Center is found in room C-2001, with limited hours at Romeoville campus. They also have a special location in the Office of Student Activities for the LEAP program, which is English for academic purpose tutoring.

All of the help the Writing and Reading center provides is available no matter what class you are in and will serve any student, staff or faculty member. In addition to the normal operating hours and the LEAP program help, the WRC has hosted a few workshops to inform students and also extend normal operating hours for important academic events such as midterms or finals.

"The WRC is a welcoming environment for students to receive assistance for their writing and reading needs," said Kerry Lane, associate professor of English. "We even offer pizza and pop at every workshop, so we encourage students to sign up ahead of time."

These include workshops that usually happen every semester such as Active Reading, Writing a Thesis/Topic Sentence, MLA/APA Documentation, and Writing a Timed Essay.

Other workshops were introduced this semester including Inferences/Implied Main Ideas, Fact vs. Opinion, Drop-In for Donuts and two that are available online called Formatting the First Page of Your Essay and Tips for Being a Successful Student.

These workshops are designed to share information that will allow students to use their information in the most effective way or even to help with some of the things expected in class but not directly covered.

"We want to support and enhance the writing and reading skills of students, staff and faculty at JJC," Lane said. "I also want to encourage students to contact me with any ideas that they have for workshops."

While all of these workshops are informative, it's never all work and no play. For example, the Drop-In for Donuts event was an extension of normal operating hours to help students prepare for midterms.

The WRC asked students to come in during the morning, pick up a donut, and prepare for exams with available tutors.

This was the first time they have done something like this and the center considered it a success.

Another new installation this semester is the computer science tutoring. Nancy Gaffey is an adjunct professor and also the tutor for this new addition to Writing and Reading Center.

If you need help formatting your paper or outline, creating a works-cited page, developing a PowerPoint presentation, inserting footnotes or headings and adjusting margins or headings, then the Writing and Reading Center encourages you to make an appointment.

The times set aside for these services are every Monday during the semester between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. in C-2001. The WRC will also be providing services during final exams week and have summer hours Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Whether you need help with formatting or have some questions about your writing, the WRC is available by appointment at C-2001 or by phone at 815-280-2730.

Students learn about science from citizens

By Isom Jacobs
Staff Writer

On March 28, there was a Brown Bag Lecture hosted by Noella D'Cruz presenting the topic of Citizen Science, a lecture that was welcome for anyone to attend.

Citizen scientists are everyday nonprofessional scientists working along with formal scientists on projects. This program is needed to deal with the lack of formal scientists in the field. Typically, these projects deal with large sets of data that the formal scientists would have trouble working with alone, so they ask citizens to help with some projects.

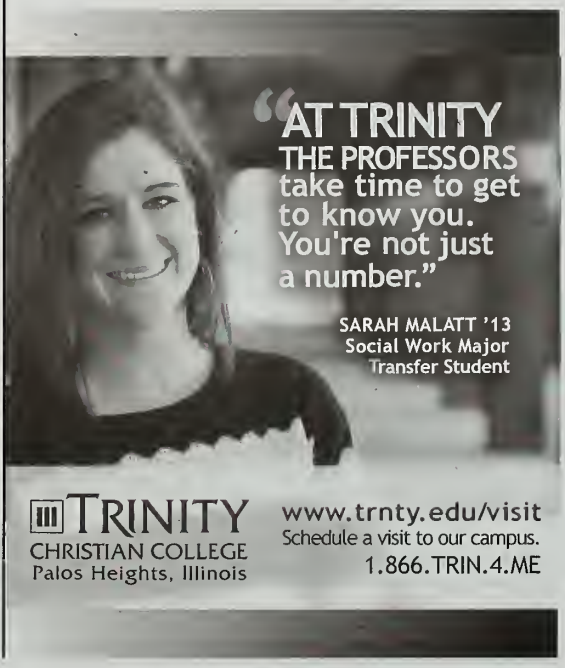
Some of these projects are found online with websites such as Zooniverse.org. The projects are in different categories such as space, climate, humanities and nature.

D'Cruz said that an example of a nature project would be a citizen scientist finding similar sounds of an Orca whale in an attempt to understand the way the whale communicates.

D'Cruz said that the projects in the space category are in lots of need for citizens. Some astronomers need volunteers to help spot explosions and similar activities on the sun. Others need help with finding planets.

There are also projects to study the surface of the moon in great detail. A large amount of data like this is being sent, but there are not enough people to take all of the information in.

D'Cruz said that this is why citizen scientists are needed. For more information on citizen science, Scientific American has an informative page along with projects at www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-scientist.



Job Fair

JJC representatives talk to potential employees.

Representatives of Securitas Security informs attendees on the different security jobs they are involved with.

A local job seeker is informed of the services and potential career oppportunites that are offered on careerbulider.com.

Photos by Melissa Magnus

JJC hosted the 2012 job fair on Thursday, April 12, for both students and local job seekers.

The event had 59 different employers set up informational booths in JJC's old cafeteria. These booths allowed well-dressed job-seeking individuals to turn in personal resumes and apply for local Chicagoland jobs as well as fill out resumes prepared by potential employers.

An Allstate representative explains the types of criteria needed to work at an insurance firm.

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Film leaves viewers 'hungry' for more

BY DAVID MANCHEN
Staff Writer

The weekend of March 23 heralded the release of the highly anticipated film adaption of Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games. Directed by Gary Ross, the film opened to a record-breaking $155 million in domestic ticket sales according to The New York Times.

With all of the attention surrounding The Hunger Games you have probably found yourself in one of two categories; either you have read one or all of the books in The Hunger Games series and have been waiting in anticipation for the movie, or you have no idea what The Hunger Games is, and don't understand why so many people are talking about it.

For the latter, The Hunger Games revolves around a post-apocalyptic North America that has been destroyed by war and replaced by twelve districts that are governed by "The Capitol."

Every year, as a way of reminding the districts of their defeat by the Capitol one girl and one boy are drawn from each district to fight to the death in a televised competition known as The Hunger Games.

I have found myself a member of the first-mentioned category. I didn't hear of The Hunger Games until about a month before the film release when I was handed a copy of the book on tape.

Being a skeptic of audio books, it took some convincing, but because I spend most of my time driving I decided to give it a shot. Within a short time, I found myself purposely taking the longest possible routes just to finish the next chapter.

I thought I had discovered some hidden gem that nobody else knew about. You can understand my excitement when I'd learned the film was set to release in March. After attempting to see the film twice during the opening weekend, I discovered it was sold out to a lobby filled with young kids. I then discovered that this was not some great secret, it was a phenomenon.

Being a fan of the books, I finally went into the theater with a lot of expectations. After the first half-hour I had spotted countless changes and details left out from the book. I decided to instead observe the film from the viewpoint of somebody who had never read the book.

From this perspective, it can really be appreciated as a well-made film. Although it is not an exact reproduction of the book, the sets and scenery were done well, the costumes and make-up were eerily great, and the casting was spot on.

Jennifer Lawrence nailed the lead role of Katniss Everdeen, the underdog contender from District 12, and Woody Harrelson was perfect as Haymitch Abernathy, Katniss' drunken mentor in the games.

Lenny Kravits acted as Cinna, Katniss' stylist. However, it seemed like a cheap attempt to shove celebrities into the film, and his acting seemed sub-par, espccially for a character that plays such a large role in the book.

Although I enjoyed Stanley Tucci as Caesar Flickerman, the host of The Hunger Games, I had imagined that if there were televised fight-to-the-death competitions like The Hunger Games, Ryan Seacrest would most likely host it.

Aside from the slight chan the book lent itself to the sc well and had an ability to away to other perspectives even had certain advantages the book. I highly recomm seeing the movie. Everyone find something they enjoy i regardless if they've read book.

Actress Jennifer Lawrence stars as Katniss Everdeen in 'Hunger Games.' *Photo courtesy of Lions*

'Titanic' cruises back to theaters

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

If you thought that Céline Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" could never return to your brain, think again. That's right folks, one of the most successful films of all time is back in theaters to excite, thrill, and pull at the heart strings all over again.

In 1997, Titanic built up a ton of buzz with its $200 million dollar budget, constant delays, and hectic production. Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox bet everything on James Cameron's ambitious project to deliver.

Thankfully, not only did Titanic make $1.8 billion dollars worldwide, but it won 11 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Unfortunately, even with the film's huge success, backlash against the film seemed inevitable.

Cameron's infamous "I'm king of the world," speech at the Academy Awards rubbed people the wrong way, males became sick of girls' love for Leonardo DiCaprio, and people who refused to buy into the hype would harshly trash it with a passion.

To coincide with the 100 year anniversary of Titanic's sailing and sinking, Cameron decided to spend 60 weeks and $18 million dollars to post-convert the film to 3D and release it in theaters worldwide.

Not only does Titanic hold up, but the 3D is absolutely spectacular, especially in IMAX 3D. If you are one of the three people who never saw Titanic, or are a huge fan that never got a chance to see it on the big screen, now is your chance.

In case you don't already know the story by heart, Titanic is about Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet), two people from completely different social classes who fall in love while sailing on the "unsinkable" Titanic. If you don't know how it ends, the ship hits an iceberg and eventually sinks.

Cameron's masterful storytelling holds the film together. He perfectly develops the relationship between the two leads while always subtlety foreshadowing the ship's inevitable demise.

We know the outcome, yet we get so swept up in the story that when the iceberg hits, we are as shocked as the characters are once we get reminded of the devastation.

When Titanic becomes a disaster film, it's one of the most incredible action movies you will ever see. Just like with Terminator 2, Cameron raised the bar with special effects and production design.

He built a nearly life size replica of the ship, used clever camera techniques, made miniature models, and even used digital stunt people.

Just like with Avatar, Cameron's use of 3D is never gimmicky. He shoots for depth, making a lot of the film's iconic imagery even better than you remember.

While the film has some mediocre performances, cheesy dialogue, and one-dimensional characters, they don't affect the emotional power of the film's narrative.

Titanic was rightfully selected as one of American Film Institute's 100 greatest films of all time. Watching it today, Titanic proves that modern blockbusters lack the grand power and ambition of old fashioned Hollywood epics. This tear jerker will always be remembered as a timeless classic.

Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

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Reader goes 'psycho' for new non-fiction

BY HUNTER THOMAS
Staff Writer

In Jon Ronson's 2011 release, *The Psychopath Test*, he takes a look into the madness industry, diving headfirst into an endless maze, trying to spot just what a psychopath is made of, and more importantly, who among our country's elite just might qualify.

From the man who wrote *Them: Adventures With Extremists* and *The Men Who Stare At Goats*, Ronson continues his own style of gonzo journalism, easily identifying himself as a character in his ever developing quest for the truth.

Ronson explores the inner workings of psychology, meeting many interesting characters along the way, including renown psychologists, psychiatrists, scientologists, cartel leaders, CEOs, and some other unfortunate souls, many of whom help develop Ronson's eye for spotting psychopaths.

Ronson's humorous brand of self-deprecation allows the reader to see into his head along the journey, often easing the tension while he is able to laugh at himself.

While Ronson develops his psychopath-spotting eye, it is easy to see that at times, he may be overanalyzing many of the people and events around him as psychopathic, just as the reader begins to analyze their own world with the newfound knowledge of just what a psychopath entails.

Ronson makes his own psychological issues clear, such as his persistent levels of high anxiety, which make him susceptible to the endless rabbit hole that is the madness he seeks to uncover, and also provides a deeper level of entertainment for the reader.

Under the guidelines of a psychological checklist called the Hare Psychopathy Checklist, along with other psychological guidelines, such as the DSM IV, which is used to diagnose mental disorders, Ronson not only uses it for self-diagnosis, but also begins to wonder if many of the movers and shakers of this world are psychopaths themselves.

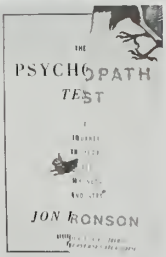
He ponders if this theory is the reason behind many of the unjust political and financial woes in the world, oftentimes finding more claims to support it than not.

The book uncovers many quarrels in the world of psychopathic study, including scientology's feud with the psychiatric industry, as more and more psychiatric diagnoses are being laid upon a constantly developing youth culture.

Seeing this culture firsthand, I can't say I disagree entirely with either side. On one side, psychiatrists are agreeing that an alarming number of our nation's youth are developing social disorders, which I could agree are influenced by mass media and the desire for children to conform to ever developing social norms. On the other side, the scientologist view that many of the disorders that are diagnosed can be treated with open communication and the identification of problems rather than simply delaying the inevitable with drugs.

The *Psychopath Test* is a great read for anyone interested in the field of psychology, as it touches on many subjects that are apparent in our social world. Ronson has an engaging, easy to read style that keeps the reader interested, while the reader develops questions and finds answers as the story progresses.

I encourage anyone who enjoys this piece to explore his other works as well, as many of the subjects he explores delve into topics not generally talked about in mainstream news.



Reid releases newest installment

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

My Own Worst Frenemy is a book from the Langdon Prep young adult series by Kimberly Reid.

The story is centered on Chanti whose mom is a vice cop, but she cannot tell anyone. Chanti lives in a bad part of town and she always seems to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Her mom is overprotective of Chanti and watches who Chanti hangs out with.

Because of her protective mother and her bad situations in the past, Chanti landed at Langdon Prep. But Langdon Prep is not the best school for her because it seems now that the headmaster at the school is after her as well. The only good thing that comes out of Langdon Prep is this really cute scholarship kid, Marco Ruiz.

Chanti is having the hardest time making the right decisions and she tends to have a cloudy judgment at times.

The author grew up in Atlanta and made this novel similar to her own life. She also had a hard time fitting in and at times felt like an outsider.

I give this book 7/10 stars. It had a very simple storyline, but could sometimes get confusing. The characters are really easy to follow along though.

I recommend this book for anyone who is having trouble fitting in.

What was interesting about the book was the dialogue and how it was written. Readers can actually imagine the character and the people talking. The author makes it seem like you are the one in the book.

The best part about this book, was how there really was not an ending. This book makes the next book more exciting and makes you want to keep reading the series. It starts off with an excellent attention grabber and pulls you right in.

This book is the third out of the Langdon Prep series. The book will keep you reading, but in order to understand what is going on, readers need to start off with the first book and work their way up. Trust me, once you start this series you will want to keep reading.

So if readers are looking for a book to help them fit in or a book to just read, this is definitely it.

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'The Diviners' to close theater season

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Staff Writer

The Fine Arts Department at Joliet Junior College is proud to bring Jim Leonard, Jr.'s "The Diviners: A Play in Two Acts and Elegies" to the JJC stage.

The Diviners is about a boy named Buddy Layman whose mother saved him from drowning in a river at the cost of her own life. This boy needs support from friends and family to overcome his fear of water since this tragic event.

"The play is dramatic yet humorous – it provides the audience with a feeling of suspense and also a sense of happiness," said Derek Miller, who plays Dewey Maples. "You get pulled in by following the life of a young boy and all of his neighbors while they try to help him with his fear."

The show features a cast of 11 actors and will be directed by theater professor Tammy Perkins. The set for the show was designed by JJC graduate Steve Lopez.

Miller points out how important this set design is for the plot.

"What's really cool about the show is that it never 'blacks out' and everything is overlapping," Miller said. "Each part of the set is a different setting."

Miller also said that they can turn certain parts of the set to change the setting and that the main stage floor also serves as a river. There will also be a four-foot trapdoor in the stage that will be used as a well, which is something that Miller said the theater department has not done in a number of years.

"We started rehearsals March 7," says Miller. "We've been practicing steadily in the evenings during the weekdays, over the weekends and every day over spring break."

The shows start on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. and continue at the same time through the weekend with additional 2 p.m. showings on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets can be purchased in the box office in K-building next the theater or by calling (815) 280-2200. The tickets will be only $3 for JJC students; $5 for faculty, non-JJC students, and senior citizens; $8 for general public.

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Kazuki Gaunitz Arias (BFA 2011), Untitled, 2011, mixed media

'Alabama Shakes' brings it back to rock roots of '50s

BY DAVID MANCHEN
Staff Writer

"Boys & Girls", the debut album from Alabama Shakes, was released on April 10 on ATO Records. Led by front-woman Brittany Howard, the Alabama Shakes are made up of guitarist Heath Fogg, bassist Zac Cockrell, and drummer Steve Johnson, with Howard on vocals and guitar.

Hailing from Athens, Ala., the group brings a mix of the blues, soul, and elements of 1950's rock-and-roll to the table.

The first thing to note about the Shakes is their raw energy. Especially on the opening track "Hold On." Opening up on a hard-hitting drumbeat, the song blooms into a fuzzy, almost deceptively lazy rhythm section coupled with Fogg's playful reverb-heavy guitar leads. Next, comes in Howard with her plea, "bless my heart, bless my soul, didn't think I'd make it to twenty-two years old."

The song moves like a train, gathering momentum and building up energy as it goes. By the time the middle of the song is reached, Howard is no longer singing, but yelling and begging the listener. "Yeah, you've got to-," and then the beat stops and you have to wonder in that moment if she just put out the last bit of energy she could possess before she finishes, "Wait!".

After the smoke of "Hold On" clears, the album moves into "I Found You," a sweet, soulful song with a soaring chorus that features a catchy call-and-response between Howard and a group of backup vocalists, strongly reminiscent of a Smokey Robinson and the Miracles song.

This is followed by "Hang Loose," a song that opens up with a playful guitar part that could almost be the melody of a children's song that comes to overlay a driving piano rhythm that conjures up images of V8 engines, leather jackets, and greased back hair.

Not to overlook the rest of the album, but I would argue that there is not a single track on the album that doesn't have something, some kind of hook or catch to it that reels listeners in. Aside from "Hold On", which is currently grabbing the album's radio attention, I feel the most honorable mention of the disc is "I Ain't The Same."

Starting off with a charging intro that slides seamlessly into a sweet, smooth soul groove, Howard's vocal delivery moves between something like Otis Redding or even vaguely similar to a young Michael Jackson on the verses and then into belting, Janis Joplin-esque choruses.

On top of all that, if you take in the piano work, the blues guitar solo, and even the way they move into changes, there is definitely something that could remind some listeners of The Allman Brothers mixed in there. This song highlights the group's diverse influences, and by itself would make this album worth the buy.

A major appeal of the Alabama Shakes is Howard's abilities as a song-writer. Her lyrics are laced with themes of loss and heartache. They are not your standard rock-and-roll teenage break-up songs, but they give a sense of some great true and tragic loss.

Howard approaches song-writing with a sincere vulnerability that cannot be replicated. I would suggest this album to anybody with affection for old-time rock and roll, indie rock, soul, Motown, or the blues.

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Softball

April 18 ~ 3 p.m.
vs. Kankakee Community

April 21 ~ 12 p.m.
vs. Rock Valley College

Baseball

April 22 ~ 12 p.m.
vs. North Arkansas

April 28 ~ 12 p.m.
vs. Milwaukee Area Tech

JJC softball player rounds third and goes for home. *File photo by Kat Boehle*

Lady Wolves back on feet

STAFF REPORTS

JJC's Lady Wolves softball team has won 11 of its last 15 games, turning around its season after a rough start.

Since falling to South Suburban on March 29, 10-9, to drop to a season low 4-18, the softball team has gone 11-3-1 to up its record to 15-21-1. The Lady Wolves have also raised their conference record to 6-4 in the N4C.

The turnaround began on March 31 with a sweep of a doubleheader at home against Triton College by scores of 11-2 and 10-1. The Lady Wolves followed that up with another doubleheader sweep at home against McHenry College on April 2 by scores of 10-1 and 10-8.

Two days later the Lady Wolves ran their win streak to six games as they took another home doubleheader against Elgin Community College by scores of 7-6 and 8-6, upping their record to 10-18.

The following day, April 5, the Lady Wolves stumbled a bit as they fell to South Suburban 12-1 in the first game of another home doubleheader. But the Wolves responded in game two by topping South Suburban 9-2.

The Lady Wolves then traveled to Rock Valley on April 6 and split a doubleheader, winning the second game 12-11 after falling in game one 6-2. The softball team ran its newest win streak to three games on April 7 as the Lady Wolves swept an away doubleheader from Madison by scores of 5-0 and 11-7.

On April 11, the Wolves won the first game of a doubleheader at McHenry, 12-0, before tying the second game 8-8 when the game was suspended. The win and tie moved the Lady Wolves record to 15-21-1 with seven more doubleheaders scheduled before the N4C Region Tournament to be held at College of Dupage beginning May 14.

Photo by Kat Boehle

Infield/outfield utility player Trey Russell prepares to throw a ball back to the infield after catching a fly ball. For more baseball, see page 12.

KING from page 12

King congratulated Vazquez on the win and jokingly said, "I have 899 more wins than you do."

King was clearly proud of his pitcher and his team.

"Vazquez feels a little pride in winning this game," King said. "The kids were revved up all year to get this win for me."

Assistant coach Gregory Braun has now been with King for two milestones, both his 800th and 900th wins.

"It's a special moment," says Braun. He added, "It's always good to beat them (Harper)."

Now that the milestone is behind them, King is hoping the team will become more consistent down the stretch.

King, who has been at JJC for over 25 years, was emotional after the victory.

"It's very honoring," he said. "The most important thing to me is that it was on our field."

Second baseman Cole Judy jumps over sliding Madison College player after recording an out.

Photo by Kat Boehle

King notches 900th

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

Outlined against a brisk April afternoon sky, the JJC men's baseball team took the field against Harper Community College on April 10. The Wolves would win the game 12-4, but that was just a subplot to a bigger story.

A historical event took place after the game when head coach Wayne King was presented a ball signifying his 900th win at JJC, a milestone few coaches have reached.

Supported by a strong defense, pitcher Austin Vazquez won the milestone game.

Vazquez, who was pitching for the first time since taking a line drive off his head earlier this season, went the distance and earned his first collegiate victory.

See KING on page 11

Wolves stumble after big win

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Sports Editor

JJC baseball Coach Wayne King recorded his 900th career victory at JJC on April 10 as the Wolves topped Harper College 12-4.

It has been a tough road since that milestone victory for the Wolves, however, as they have dropped five straight, falling to 22-22 on the year.

Hosting Madison Community College for a double-header on April 14 proved to be too much to handle as the Wolves dropped both games. The Wolves lost 5-1 in the opener and 1-0 in the nightcap.

The Wolves were looking to rebound after coming off a 7-6 loss to Oakton Community College in extra innings on April 13.

JJC also dropped both games on Thursday, April 12, when Blackhawk College Moline topped the Wolves 3-2 and 12-1.

In the first game against Blackhawk, pitcher Alex Parks pitched well but had little support. In the second game, the Wolves lost by double digits for the third time this season.

King said the Wolves' offense has shown some good signs but needs to be more consistent.

In the milestone victory against Harper College on April 10, Trey Russell, Dakota Brown and Cole Judy led the offense with three hits each. Brown had a triple and RBI, and Russell doubled twice and had three RBI. Dan Eliopulos and Trevor Vermillion had two hits each, while Nick Gould had a triple.

Austin Vazquez went the distance on the mound for the Wolves, striking out six and giving up five hits in pitching a complete game. The milestone 900th win moved the Wolves' record to 22-17 before their five-game skid.

On April 7, the Wolves dropped two games to N4C conference opponent Triton College.

In game one, the Wolves fell 1-0. Russell had three hits for the Wolves as Vermillion pitched a complete game. The only run scored in the game was unearned. In game two, the Wolves lost 11-3.

On April 6, the Wolves swept a double-header from Carl Sandberg, 11-4 and 5-1.

In the first game, the bats came alive as Vermillion led the way in the 11-run outburst.

Jonathan Rosario pitched four and two-thirds innings of relief to help the seal the win.

In the second game, the big blow came in the sixth inning when Brown hit a two-run home-run over the right-center fence. Jared Steck got the win, pitching six innings of shut-out baseball.

"It felt great," Brown said, referring to his home run. "I just was swinging hard and having fun."

Assistant coach Gregory Braun said the Wolves have to be more consistent in the fundamentals if they are going to be successful.

"When you don't execute the little things, they come back and bite us," Braun said.

The Wolves will be tested in the next few weeks according to King.

"We're playing strong teams," King said. "We need our A game going stride for stride."

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

This issue's male athlete is infield and outfield utility player Trey Russell. Russell has helped the Wolves achieve a record of 22-22 overall. Russell is hitting .408 with 49 hits in 120 at-bats. Russell leads the Wolves in triples and batting average. Russell is also tied for the team lead in hits and is second in doubles and RBI's.

Trey Russell

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

This issue's female athlete is Amanda Reid, a sophomore catcher for the softball team. Reid earned the honor by helping the Lady Wolves achieve a 15-21-1 record overall. Reid is hitting .488 by hitting safely in 40 of 82 at-bats this season. Reid also has nine home-runs and 35 RBI.

Amanda Reid

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2012 VOLUME 85 ISSUE 2

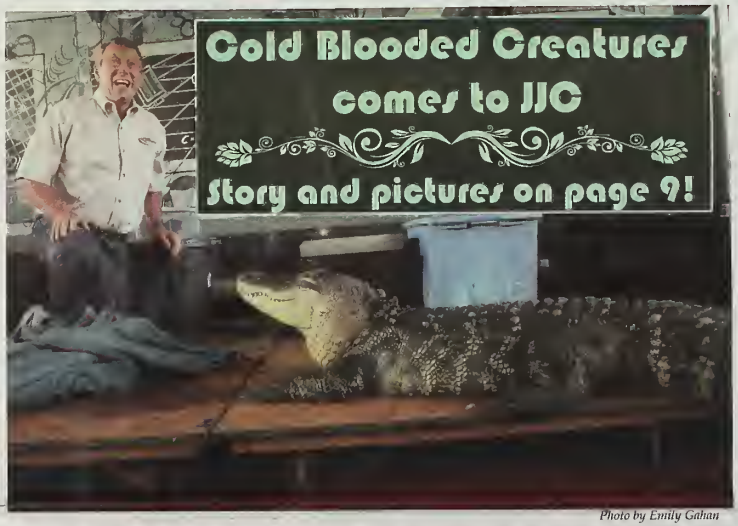

Photo by Emily Gahan

Jim Nesci, reptile handler, visits JJC students to educate them about reptiles such as 'Bubba' the alligator (above) on Sept. 26 at Cold Blooded Creatures on the bridge.

JJC a leader in sustainability

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

You may not realize it, but you can see examples of JJC's commitment to going green everywhere you go on campus. It's really quite unavoidable. It's likely you've heard a professor complain about or praise JJC's actions against paper waste or you've used one of the many recycling receptacles to toss away a plastic bottle. Maybe you've noticed the solar panels on the roof of the Campus Center while rushing to find a spot in the parking lot, which also hosts prime parking locations for those with low emissions vehicles.

JJC's Sustainability Committee is largely responsible for all the eco-friendly promotions students and faculty see around campus on a daily basis. The committee has been hard at work implementing ideas outlined in its Climate Action Plan. First drafted in 2009, JJC's Climate Action Plan displays the college's sincerity about environmental awareness though clearly outlined energy-saving goals." Changing out incandescent lighting for LED bulbs, geothermal heating and cooling and low-flow sink faucets are just a few of the goals the Sustainability Committee has devised. However, JJC's reduction of energy costs is not just a recent endeavor. Many are unaware that it is a historical one as well.

"I think that being the first community college, when we started to look at sustainability under that new word 'sustainable', what you will see under our sustainable initiatives is that if you look under then and now we started these efforts in the 60's," said Committee Chair Maria Rafac. "When we go to different conferences and I represent JJC, people are constantly looking to us because we can't reduce our lighting anymore."

Of course, while efficient lighting can be attained and left alone, paper and plastic waste poses a constant challenge for the committee. Vice President of Administrative Services Judy Mitchell expressed some actions the college has taken to address waste from printing.

"Paper consumption has increased for quite some time. That was concerning when we kept talking about the use of paper," Mitchell said. "We hired Koniea (printing company) and they came in last year and had done an evaluation for all our machines on campus. Their goal is to implement new copiers throughout the entire campus with the goal of eliminating all of the ink jet printers."

Rafac added that the committee is looking into purchasing paper with "a certain percentage of post-consumables," and that through the printing services area, used paper can be transformed into binders and bound pads.

While the Sustainability Committee does its best to take matters into its own hands, it's up to students and faculty to truly push forward with solutions.

"The Sustainability Committee has a student task force and one of their pieces is the educational piece," Rafac said. "It's one thing to say here's a recycle bin, but now we have to go a little further and educate people."

The education portion of sustainability is crucial, according to Rafac, because

See LEADERSHIP on page 4

Hispanic Heritage observed by JJC

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at JJC by participating in Aztec Stories on Oct 9. Michael Heralda tours through the Midwest every two years to educate listeners about Aztec culture.

Heralda is a musician, songwriter and published author who writes from an indigenous perspective. He is also an editor of the bilingual cultural resource magazine, Ketzalkoatl, and is currently working on a film based on oral tradition and has received many awards for his work towards educating people about the Aztec culture.

Heralda brings this ancient Mexican culture to life, entertaining and informing his audiences by having them actively participate in the presentation. Pam Dilday, Director of Student Activities and Student Life, recalls Heralda's visit two years ago.

"It is a great chance for students to connect with another heritage, to experience another culture and to learn about another culture," said Dilday. "When he was here two years ago, he let students come up and play these native Aztec instruments."

Heralda's instruments are handmade in authentic Aztec style and include clay flutes, gourd water drums, shakers, rasps and conch shell trumpets. The instruments are only a part of the presentation. The goal of Aztec Stories is to be a thought-provoking experience. It is not only an opportunity to learn about the culture of ancient Mexico, but is also an opportunity to connect with a rich part of your own heritage

See HISPANIC on page 6

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EDITORIAL

Look past a limited political spectrum

When people tell you to not view the world in black and white, they should also remind you that it's not merely red or blue either. In a supposedly democratic society, the Democrat and Republican parties are the only two widely recognized representatives of American political life. Why is this? The truth is, even these two parties are moderate in their policies and are closer to the center of the spectrum of politics than you might be led to think.

The Blazer acknowledges and encourages interest in alternative political ideologies that are outside the mainstream, and criticizes the fact that major media outlets shy away from covering the wide array of thought there is to knowledgeable about. Everyone knows about the epic battles of Romney and Obama, but do you know who Jill Stein is? Jill Stein is the presidential nominee for the Green Party this year. She is an enviromental health expert and advocates for the working class.

People should be aware and open to the fact that real discussion in the political arena includes a wider variety of topics and ideas than are mentioned usually. People tend to think that those residing outside the lines of Republican and Democrat are extremists, but the Blazer assures you that being a member of the Socialist Party or Libertarian Party doesn't automatically render you a communist or fascist weirdo.

People tend to fear alternative political parties because of the stigma that extremism lays just outside the comforts of a bicameral government system.

While yes, extremism exists on the far ends of the conservative and liberal sides, people should be better educated to identify different ideologies so nobody mistakes Obama for a socialist again. It's unhealthy for a free state to highlight only two parties to represent a diverse population. The political spectrum covers a wider range than you might imagine, so keep an open mind and be wary of shallow political factoids and name dropping.The Blazer not only encourages you to vote, but to also give all names on the ballot a consideration this election.

'Team lift is a myth': In support of strikers

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Imagine working in sweltering 130 degree heat for hours, lifting objects many times your weight without proper equipment or a safe environment. For those who work at a warehouse in Elwood, this has been a reality on a daily basis.

The workers are employed by Schneider Logistics, a contractor with an elusive, infamous, union-busting mega corporation that sells everything from Chinese dog toys to generic canned beans and allows its customers to ride around on electric carts if they are feeling lazy.

While that was quite a mouthful, it's likely you have guessed Wal-Mart is the culprit here. While it's cliché that people tend to blame Wal-Mart for these kind of issue, it often ends up being true. Many broke college students find themselves in a discouraging employment situation. I know I've been there.

While I worked for Wal-Mart, the largest employer in the country, many employees were forced to work in multiple departments outside their own because Wal-Mart cuts workers for increased profits. It calls its retail workers "associates," but I know that Wal-Mart undervalues its workers and pays them a pittance in comparison with its record profits.

However, for the warehouse workers in Elwood the situation was dire enough to warrant a strike. According to the sponsoring organization, Warehouse Workers for Justice, roughly 30 employees walked off the job Sept. 17 and took legal action.

Holly Kent and John Stachelski are two JJC students among the strikers. While I admire that they have strength when it comes to standing up to Wal-Mart,

See MYTH on page 3

Where have all the nice people gone?

BY AUTUMN PULVERMACHER
Staff Writer

Where have all the nice people gone? When did we stop being nice to each other?

As a society, is it a sign of the changing times to stop being nice, or is it inevitable? Or has it got something to do with our dependency on the technologies that limit our interaction with each other? I was pondering about all this the other day as I waited in line at Wal-Mart.

The line was quite long and I noticed a woman with a huge basket of stuff. Directly behind her was an older guy with two items in his hands. The line finally started to move and a new lane opened up.

Do you know that this lady acted like she didn't even see him as she rushed over to the new line? How hard would it have been for her to be kind and let him go first? We've all been there before.

Last year I got stuck behind a lady with two carts of spices and Jell-O (while I had three items). Needless to say, after about 20 minutes of waiting in line behind her I was frustrated and irritated.

Even on the roadways we all do it constantly- cutting people off, not using a turn signal and not letting cars in or over into our lane. I'm guilty of it myself (speeding, tailgating and forcing my way into the other lane).

Now I'll admit that I get a temporary rush of satisfaction by zooming around a slower car, but is it the nice thing to do? No, and that's why that feeling quickly turns to unease moments later.

However, sometimes my faith in the inherent kindness in everyone is restored. Just this week, I left class without my coat and my teacher and fellow students were frantically trying to track me down before I left the building.

See NICE on page 3

BLAZER STAFF

Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Michael Schuller
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Miller
Production Manager

Tammy Slokke
Sports Editor

Sarah Lake
Advertisement Manager

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Photo Editor

Staff Writers:
Eric Mcewen, Kelsi Bertheaume, Larenza Jackson, Autumn Pulvermacher, Eric Manahan, Victoria Shiner, April Musilek Ashley Murray, Adriano Vazquez, Bridget Orury

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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this was simply the final straw for them.

Members of the strike call for a living wage. This is a common hardship middle and working-class people face. According to the Washington Post, wages have remained stagnant since the start of the 2008 recession and have been hovering under the rate of inflation. With the notorious 1 percent making more in a minute than the 99 percent makes in a day, the huge gap signals a troubling imbalance that must be addressed.

With so many young adults underemployed, it's important that young people recognize when unfair labor practices are occurring at their jobs. For instance, working more than five hours without a lunch is a violation, as is overtime without pay.

I support strikers, such as those at the Elwood warehouse, because the plight of the working class makes a statement about the society we live in. How we treat our disadvantaged determines if we value human prosperity and decency over wealth. It seems Wal-Mart has been failing in that area as of late, along with many other employers in the public and private sector.

Striker Kent mentioned the concept of a "team lift" on her Facebook profile, stating it is a myth. Those who have worked for any Wal-Mart-sponsored employer will know that a team lift is a precaution Wal-Mart mentions in many of its monotonous safety videos. If the load is too heavy to carry, have someone else help you.

Wal-Mart needs to step up and practice what it preaches. Team lift not only applies to the workers, but also to those more fortunate. Together, we can lift society up and away from unfair labor practices, if only the best-off among us would reach down and give the rest of us a hand.

NICE from page 2

Lucky for me, I was in the bathroom and ran into the student before I left.

I was relieved to get my coat back, but also touched that they went through so much trouble for me. This was quite refreshing and has inspired me to issue a challenge. I challenge everyone to be nicer people.

Let that person go ahead of you in line or simply smile and ask, "How are you?"

Remember what they taught us in kindergarten-to play nice with others? Well, it still applies today.

As for me, I'm a work in progress, but there are moments where it's going to be tough. The next time there's a Buick Lesabre with a senior citizen clogging up the left lane on I-55, I'm not going to zip around him, cut him off and be rude. I'm going to take a deep breath, smile and be nice.

Graphic by Holly Kent

Attend a lot of school events?

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Students decorate home for veterans

Interior design classmates team up with Morning Star Mission to shelter homeless

By Bridget Drury
Staff Writer

The interior design students at JJC have completed their third design project for the Morning Star Mission in Joliet. This community service project was called Sweet Sixteen, and was done to design and build a home for three veterans using the combined efforts of JJC's interior design students and Morning Star Mission.

Morning Star Mission has been around since 1909, serving many people in the Joliet area and all over Will County. They perform various services to those who are in need. Some services include donations in clothing and food and providing shelter for the homeless.

One of their newest services is housing homeless veterans to give them a stable home. JJC and Morning Star Mission have collaborated to renovate a house on Melchoir Street.

JJC's interior design students designed and furnished the house that would be the new home for the veterans.

Students had five weeks to complete this project, which included creating a design, taking measurements and getting furniture, not to mention having it all delivered. The students then put their design skills to the test by furnishing each room.

"It was a wonderful experience working with Joliet Junior College. They got to use their creativity to complete the house and it was a great challenge for the interior design students," said Jackie Kinney, a volunteer for Morning Star Mission.

When asked about the veterans' reactions to their new home Kinney said, "The veterans were surprised by their work. It was not just a simple couch they put in, but a good thorough job of decorating. The biggest challenge I think students had was coordinating colors of the décor to the walls which were already painted, but they were able to work it out and did a wonderful job."

With the talents of JJC's interior design students along with their kind acts of generosity, the project was finished in its allotted time and is now the new home to the veterans.

Pavlik connects fairy tales and media

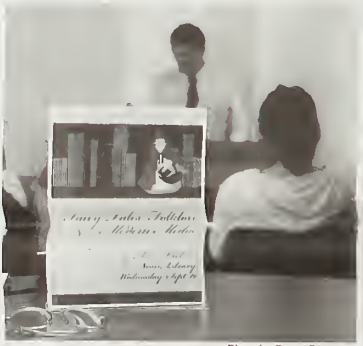

Photo by Renee Ronzone

Mike Pavlik gives a Brown Bag lecture on how media and fairy tales intertwine with one another.

By Victoria Shiner
Staff Writer

The start of the Brown Bag Lecture series kicked off with Mike Pavlik's lecture, "Fairy Tales, Folklore, and Modern Media" on Sept. 19 in the main campus library. His lecture focused on today's media including the folklore and fairy tales of today, as well as the history of these stories and the tales that we still hear currently.

The lecture was a quiet, intimate setting with a smaller turnout than usual. Yet, the audience was interactive and attentive. Pavlik used examples in his lectures to connect to the audience, like television shows and movies that portray classic fairytales the audience could connect to.

Pavlik made many comparisons in his lecture. He noted society may latch on to these fairytales in rough times for a "happy ending" to ease their fears. He concluded that fairy tales and folklore hold such a big part in today's society.

Whether it is Disney movies or the new fairytale-based television series that are becoming increasingly popular, fairytales are still passed down but reinterpreted from the originals.

"Clearly (fairytales and folklore) are such a cultural factor right now that is really big, and it caught my attention," Pavlik said on the reason he chose this topic to discuss.

"Just the stories themselves have a grip on people," he continued to say.

Pavlik is no newbie to Brown Bag lectures; he has done others in the past relating to anthropology, plants, health and other topics he has found interest in.

Pavlik teaches social and behavioral sciences at JJC, and has been teaching here for 17 years. He is also an anthropologist by training. Folklore has been one of Pavlik's interests in social sciences. He even hopes that folklore classes get started at JJC.

The lecture can be listened to on the JJC website under the "Brown Bag Lecture Series" tab. The next Brown Bag Lecture will is on Oct. 3 in the main campus library. The speaker will be Armando D'Onorio presenting a lecture called "National Cyber Security Awareness Month."

LEADERSHIP from page 1

it simply isn't about recycling plastic bottles; it's about reducing their use in the first place. Rafac notes that there are reusable drink bottles in the book store and cafeteria and that it is a better solution than simply teaching people how to recycle plastic bottles properly.

All this effort isn't simply for the benefit of the campus. The committee wants to set an example for the entire community to follow.

"Just today I got a call from the Boy Scouts way up north and they want to come in and see our Campus Center and do a tour to learn about green building," Rafac mused excitedly. "We've hosted a big sustainability event, we've hosted speakers and we've had a farmer's market so we're kind of touching all the little areas. These are not just for us, this is for our community."

Students who wish to get involved can join the student sector of the Sustainability Committee. On Sept. 28, members attended the SMHEC Student Sustainability Summit, at which students from JJC were one of the main presenters at the event. Faculty, students and community members can also sign a sustainability pledge on JJC's website to commit to JJC's efforts to be kinder to the planet.

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or to gain a new understanding of the heritage of others.

Heralda also stresses the importance of identity. Even if you're not part of the Hispanic culture, this is an idea that everyone can take something away from. Hispanic Heritage Month is meant to celebrate the long and fruitful history of many cultures and people; it does not belong to any individual region or nation.

Whether celebrating historical independence, the longstanding and powerful cultural presence of Hispanic people in the United States or just want to take some time and learn about other cultures, it is an experience that everyone can enjoy.

Photo courtesy of Student Government

Musician plays conch shell trumpet.

Student United Way set to act

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

The Student United Way is a club for people interested in volunteering, meeting new people and collaborating with other clubs.

There are many college students volunteering their time to help the community, and they have fun doing it. Students volunteer at nursing homes, churches and many other places.

Volunteering your time will look good on job applications and can also help you get into a good university.

Student United Way is a club dedicated to helping out the community and the college. With Amy Sims as the advisor, and Marilyn Berril as the co-advisor, Student United Way received the Club of the Year Award two years ago from the Collegiate Club Council of JJC and continues to do good services.

One fundraiser that this club is well known for is the Toys for Tots fundraiser. Working together with the Big Brothers and Sisters, last year they made hygiene kits for the Guardian Angel home.

Student United Way is already well prepared for this fall semester and is led by the new club president Kevin Huckfeldt.

"This is my first semester here at JJC but I am really glad that I am in this club because it makes me feel better about myself," Club Vice President Amy Tschiggifre said.

After asking club president if this year will be better then last year his response was "I have many fun and exciting ideas for this club and I can't wait to share them with other members". This club also welcomes four new members this year. They are currently in the finalizing stages of approving events.

Student United Way will most likely be at the volunteer fair that JJC is hosting on Oct 10 at 10a.m.

Student United Way meets every Tuesday at 3p.m. in room D1010 at the main campus. The club members encourage students who are interested in becoming more involved in the community to come see what they are up to.

Have a Nose for News?

Write for the Blazer!

Blazermail@jjc.edu

Student Government welcomes new president

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

The JJC Student Government *is back for another great year.* Newly-elected president Roberta Carnes has many great ideas up her sleeve. Student Government also welcomes seven new student representatives: Amy Tschiggfrie, Brooke Krol, Emily Royer, Jason Wynn, George Joachim, Erin Moreno and Jeremy Smith.

There are also many events coming up, including the student talent showease. In the showcase, students audition to show off their talents. Audition dates will be set soon.

Student Government recently held its Constitution Day and it was a huge success. During Constitution Day, students were given the opportunity to debate with fellow Student Government members about certain parts of the Constitution. Student Government also hosted a meet-and-greet with local politicians on Oct. 3. The meet-and-greet involved Student Government members and other students meeting with various senators and nominees to talk about political issues they are interested in.

Student Government is also planning on attending a conference. Student Government members sit in on many committee meetings and are interested in what students have to say about how this school year can be an even better experience.

"Student Government has lots of amazing members this year and I can't wait to work with them. I have a lot of changes for this club, but the best part about this club is that it is never boring," Carnes said.

"The club this year is packed but exciting. It excites me to see the student government members walking around campus getting to know the students," Pam Dilday said about the high hopes for the club.

Students interested in being the voice of the college community can easily join the Student Government. Student Government has a meeting every Thursday of the month in A1002 at 3 p.m. If interested in joining, students can contact Pam Dilday at pdilday@jjc.edu. Student Government is a good experience for students who want to test out their leadership skills

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JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE

JJC holds 11th annual job fair

BY BRIDGET DRURY
Staff Writer

On Sept. 14, JJC held its eleventh annual job fair. Around 38 employers attended the job fair to get to know hundreds of potential college student employees.

Students who went to the fair got to see what companies expected in their work, what their company was about and if they could see themselves working for those companies.

"Job fairs offer opportunities," said JJC career counselor Kathy Davis. "Not only that, but it's all in one place making it easier for students to find potential jobs."

Davis is one of the career counselors that work in the student career center, where students get assistance in finding a job. The career center offers assistance in many aspects in the professional world, such as resume building, mock interviews, helping to choose your major based on your interests and information on upcoming job fairs.

With times being tough in the economy, college students need all the help and tips they can get. According to Davis, enthusiasm is key to drawing positive attention to yourself and having a good resume that represents who you are in the professional world.

"We get good feedback from both employers and students about our job fairs," continued Davis. "It gives them the chance to meet one another face-to-face, which you can't do when submitting an online application."

What a lot of career advisors tell students nowadays is submitting your application in person is a big plus on getting employers attention.

At job fairs, students can give companies their application in person to give them a head start in the application process.

Davis adds, "It is good to show up face-to-face with your application, it looks professional to the employers as well when introducing yourself".

The goal of the JJC's student job fairs, along with the assistance of the student career center, is to help students in any way to find a job that can build experience in the professional workforce.

Marchenko discusses 'green' products

By Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Everyone in the room sat idly on cushy chairs as they waited for Nataliya Marchenko, a business education professor, to begin her seminar on the truth about eco-friendly products. As she attempted to tame unruly technology so she could display her PowerPoint, people tapped away at their smartphones, displaying an unsaid irony.

Marchenko was to discuss the implications of certain technologies on the environment, and the aforementioned smartphone was about to receive its time in the spotlight.

Marchenko was to offer a look at green technologies and how much of an impact they have during all stages of their production, not just during the emphasized consumption stage of the product. Marchenko calls this the "lifecycle approach."

"You look at the product and how environmentally friendly it is, not only during the consumption part, but also how the product was produced and then how the product is going to be utilized," Marchenko said. "When you take all this into account, only then can you say whether a product is truly green."

Marchenko noted that there are two solutions when it comes to green products. One is conservation, or simply using less, and the other involves using as much energy as we are currently, but with alternative energy sources.

Marchenko then began to address myths about several supposedly green technologies, starting with government-subsided ethanol. Making fuel from plants and not burning carbon seems feasible, but Marhenko warned that ethanol is not what it seems.

"First of all, you have to grow the corn, right? It turns out growing corn is not a very clean endeavor, environmentally speaking," Marchenko said. "It requires lots of fertilizers, heavy use of diesel machinery and then corn is one of the worst crops to grow as far as soil erosion."

Not to mention, growing corn for ethanol requires increasing amounts of land use for corn crops. However, certainly cars run on electricity are environmentally sound. Not so according to Marchenko. She displayed a study in which a BEV (Battery Operated Vehicle) was compared with an internal combustion car. It turns out the "green" factor of electric cars only depends on how the battery was produced and where the electricity is sourced from.

"Basically if you charge your electric or hybrid car from the so-called 'dirty grid' where electricity is produced by burning coal, it's going to be even," said Marchenko.

After coming to a more optimistic conclusion about florescent lighting, Marchenko got to the base of the problem with green technologies.

"All these green energy alternatives require rare metals," she said. Rare metals, found in most electronics, including the cell phones sitting at the ready by just about every student at the seminar, are minerals that are not found in concentrated forms. Marchenko warned that most rare metals are mined and exported from China. Electronic waste from the US is then shipped back to China for the extraction of these rare metals. Marchenko calls this pollution export.

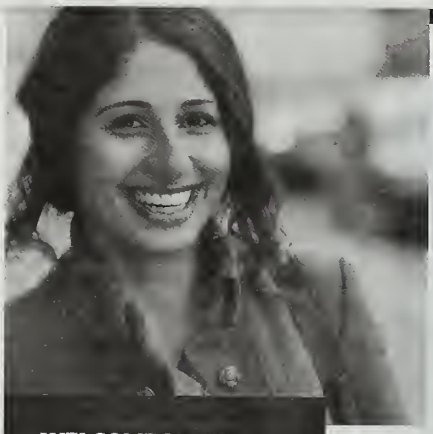
"Pollution export is when you simply take the dirty part and export it into other countries," said Marchenko.

Marchenko offered hope at the end at the seminar just before she took viewers on a virtual tour of a green home.

"Truly green things are not very expensive and not very high tech," she said. Marchenko mused about her mother's use of baking soda and mustard to clean dishes, which apparently gets the job done over dish soap any day.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Professor Natallya Marchenko talks about how you don't need to have advanced technology in order to be 'green'.



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Auto students convert gas-guzzler

By Lorenzo Jackson
Staff Writer

Curt Ward, professor of Automotive Service Technology, walks me through a phenomenal department of hard working and hands-on students with blackened hands and a passion for the automotive field. The JJC Automotive Department, with an eye for the future and the help of JJC Foundation funding, has created an electric car. This was a four month project that started on Feb. 1 and lead into the end of May. Over those four months about 60 students worked two nights a week, including Saturdays. This was a $10,000 project with a donation of a red '94 Toyota pickup truck that came with a green recycling sticker. The conversion of this red pickup truck from a gas to an electric automobile has transformed an ozone endangering vehicle to a zero emissions, clean, "green" truck that needs a six to eight hour charge, and with General Electric company it only costs $1.40. "It's very quiet," Ward said as he introduces the open hood of his students' finished product.

In his fourth year of teaching at JJC, Ward has been in the automotive industry since '76 and thoroughly enjoys what he does. Watching him enthusiastically explain the comparison of gas and electric cars is impacting for anyone considering buying an electric car.

As far as future projects, Ward mentioned a grant proposal for a propane-powered vehicle which is also another clean method as opposed to common fuel-based cars. The grant proposal is significantly less than the one received for the electric truck (less than $5,000) which makes it a very possible follow-up venture to the electric car.

Having a voltage of 144 and a nine-inch DC motor, this truck sits as a trophy of what JJC students can do if given an open horizon and a professor's encouragement to strive past the desk and chairs of their classroom.

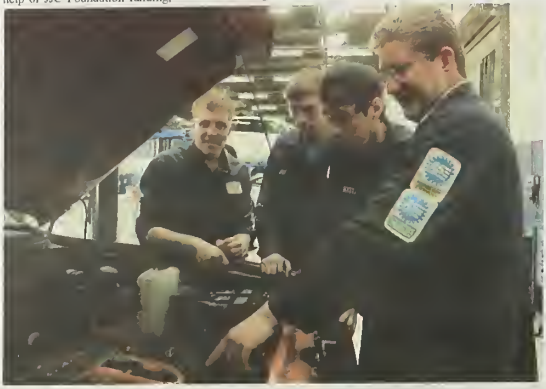
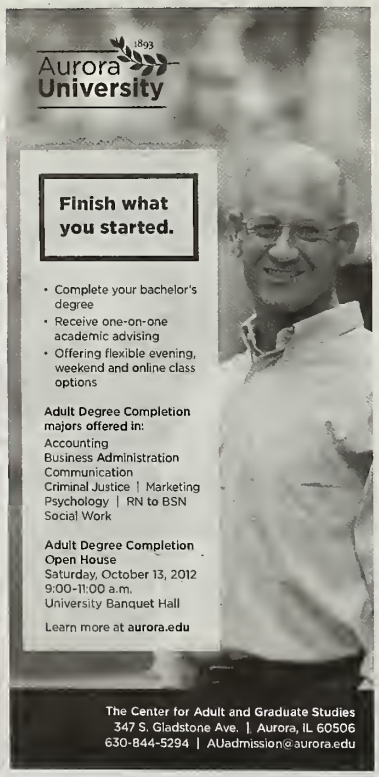


Photo by Emily Gahan

From left: Taylor Rogers, Jeff King, Keith Wayteck, and instructor Curt Ward inspect engine.

Photo by Emily Gahan

The electric truck granted to JJC automotive students takes up to six to eight hours to be fully charged.



JJC turns cold-blooded

Story by: Lorenzo Jackson **Photos by: Emily Gahan**

Jim Nesci 'whispers' to 'Bubba' the alligator.

Jim Nesci, or as he is known to many in his profession, "The Alligator Whisperer," opens a blue container and pulls out a incredibly large tortoise that goes by the name of Tank, and places it on the lap of a man sitting in the first row.

Students filled every chair and lined the walls around the stage on the center bridge to see Nesci's assorted reptiles. Besides the tortoise, he takes out of each reptile from their containers starting with the tortoise (Tank). Next, Nesci pulls out the Black Throat Monitor (Godzilla), a North American Alligator (Lucky), a Black Python, an Albino Burmese Python (Blondie) and finishing with the "main event" as he calls him, with an alligator named Bubba.

Nesci has kept reptiles his whole life, since '52, and has made it his goal to take the fear away from reptiles and get people to enjoy them.

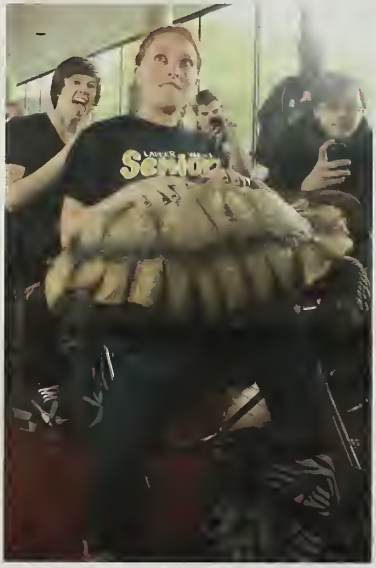
"The whole point of this program is about liking animals. If you start to like animals, you give them a chance to be saved," Nesci said.

All the animals Nesci has are rescues that he had found or had been given up throughout his veteran years as a reptile expert. His friend Bubba has been in the Make-a-Wish Foundation, has a children's story named after himself, raised 1 million in cancer research and has met numerous famous people, one of which was the late Steve Irwin.

Despite the shock and amazement of the students, those who had never experienced most of the animals listed were seen throwing their hands in the air to volunteer for holding and petting the many reptiles. Nesci was eager to oblige.

"They have received bad press for so many years, but they are truly marvelous creatures," he said.

His love for the animals is one that he was able to share with the JJC students and faculty who accepted him with open "alligator arms", but they were open nevertheless.



A student holds 'Tank' the tortoise while listening to Nesci's presentation.

Treshawn Shaw holds 'Lucky' the North American Alligator.

Monica Rodriguez holds a Ball Python on the bridge.

Two students hold the head of 'Blondie', an albino Burmese Python.

Hactivist group leaks 12 million Apple user ID's

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As the world moves into second decade of the 2000s, more people are starting to become familiar with political activism via cyber-attacks, also known as hacktivism.

When one thinks about this subject, it's almost impossible to not call hacker group Anonymous, to mind. The phenomena of Anonymous might be most notable with its early efforts against the Church of Scientology or its involvement and endorsement of Occupy Wallstreet.

Anonymous teamed up with the remaining members of hacker collective, LulzSec, in June of last year. LulzSec was responsible for compromising 77 million PlayStation Network user accounts on June 6, 2011, according to the Washington Post.

The union of Anonymous and Lulzsec brought forth Operation AntiSec shortly after the PSN fiasco. AntiSec's aims claim to be in the name of informing the public and creating an offensive against private and public corruption.

AntiSec has exposed data from various corporations in the past, such as last December's email leak of US security thinktank, Stratfor.

AntiSec revealed another treasure trove of information by releasing one million UDIDs (Unique Device Identifiers) linked to Apple iOS users in early September. UDIDs are a string of 40 characters unique to a certain Apple device.

According to tech website Wired, "The hackers say they actually stole 12 million IDs, including personal information."

However, AntiSec chose not to reveal the whole list or personal information such as addresses and phone numbers.

AntiSec claims that the UDIDs were obtained from FBI agent Christopher K. Stangl's laptop, which has raised questions about Apple's privacy policies and FBI intrusion into Americans' personal information. However, an official FBI statement posted by the New York Times reads as follows:

"The FBI is aware of published reports alleging that an FBI laptop was compromised and private data regarding Apple UDIDs was exposed. At this time there is no evidence indicating that an FBI laptop was compromised or that the FBI either sought or obtained this data."

Apple has also responded, denying that it has provided the FBI with any user information. The company discontinued use of UDIDs with the release of iOS 6 Apple spokesperson, Natalie Kerris, has said.

However, some security experts think that the leak is not as threatening as it seems, according to the New York Times. Jim Fenson, a primary security officer at OneID, has claimed that the UDID is simply "a jumble of digits" and "only powerful when it is aggregated with other information," the Times has posted.

JJC students and faculty with Apple devices should be aware that there are ways to find out if their UDID was among the one million revealed to the public. Technology news site, The Next Web (thenextweb.com), has provided a tool that will inform Apple users if their UDID was among the list.

If you're unsure where you can locate your UDID, it is in iTunes once your device is connected to a computer. Simply select your device's name in iTunes and the UDID will be under your device's serial number.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, but that isn't stopping hackers from continuing their craft.

According to ABC News, unknown overseas hackers have been targeting the websites of large banks since Sept. 27, taking down PNC Bank's site for hours. If anything, the global community will witness an increase in cyber-attacks in response to the US government mandated awareness month.

Graphic by Emily Gahan

AntiSec is just one of many hactivist groups that tap into secret sources.

Study abroad

Opportunities abound for worldly students

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

While the world may seem smaller due to globalization, there's still so many breathtaking areas to cover and many cultures to experience when it comes to travel. Fortunately, students can recieve a unique international education here at JJC.

JJC offers seven study abroad programs, two of which (Japan and Jordan) have been created specifically by JJC in partnership with College of Lake County. Besides the Japan and Jordan programs, students have the oppurtunity to visit Austria, England, Ireland, Costa Rica or Spain.

"There is so much to be said about experiencing another culture first-hand. You can read about it, look at movies and talk to people and those are all wonderful things," said International Education Coordinator Berta Arias. "But, to be able to study abroad gives you an incredible sense of what the world is like."

In addition to earning credits overseas, students can gain independence and a more diverse world view. To be eligible to attend either the spring, summer or fall semester trips, attendees must have a 2.75 GPA or higher, a C or better in English 101, have already earned 12 credits, two letters of recommendation and a deposit fee with the application.

While this may sound like quite a lot of hoops to jump through, Arias explained that the cost of the trip isn't one compared to the programs of four-year universities. While it's still expensive to travel, there are international scholarships available. One scholarship specific to the Jordan program offers $500 off the cost to students with a high GPA.

Arias emphasized that students should never have to feel clueless when traveling abroad for the first time. The experience can be overwhelming for anyone at first, but many educators say its worth it, if not essential to a well-rounded education.

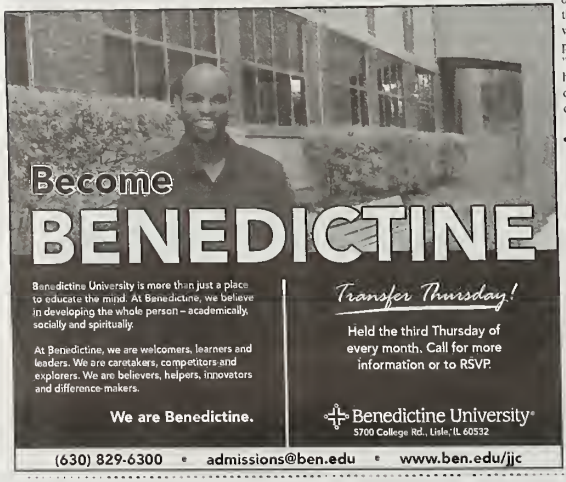
"Our students, through any of our programs abroad, go through a thorough orientation with whoever is handling that program at the time," she said. "The orientation itself is a two-hour session that talks about differences and the customs, the dos and don'ts of that culture."

While students should never be fearful of traveling, the program teaches students how to be smart travelers and how to keep safety in mind. Arias herself is an adventuring veteran.

"I've been to 28 countries," she said before noting there was never a culture she didn't love.

Information sessions for the Japan and Jordan programs will be taking place this month. The Jordan session will be on Oct. 16 at 2-3 p.m. in room A-1107. The Japan session will take place Oct. 25 at 2-3 p.m. in J-3014.

Only 11-13 students will be allowed to go for each program, and spots fill up quickly. The deadline to attend spring trips is this month, along with February for summer trips and May for the fall semester. Those interested should contact Arias at barias@jjc.edu or call (815) 280-2270 for more information.



'Lawless' turns out lackluster

New mobster film starring Shia LaBeouf disappoints

BY ADRIANO VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

Director John Hillcoat, who gave us The Proposition and The Road comes back to direct "Lawless", a superbly acted yet undercooked western crime film based on Matt Bondurant's 2008 novel "The Wettest County in the World".

It follows the true story of the Bondurant brothers named Forrest (Tom Hardy), Howard (Jason Clarke) and Jack (Shia LaBeouf). With the help of their friend Cricket (Chronicle's Dane DeHaan), and their bar used as the centerpiece for their illegal activities, they run a very successful liquor bootlegging operation.

Things go smoothly until special agent Charlie Rakes (Guy Pearce), who is there on behalf of District Attorney Mason Wardell, informs Forrest that he wants a cut of all profit made by Franklin's bootleggers, but Forrest refuses and threatens Rake's life should he return.

Even when Forrest later meets with the other bootleggers and convinces them to stand up to Rakes as well, the other bootleggers eventually give in to Rake's violent intimidation tactics, against Forrest's wishes.

This all leads to bloodshed, corruption, eventually involving mobster Floyd Banner (Gary Oldman), a Chicago waitress named Maggie Beauford (Jessica Chastain) and a possible end to their operation.

The saving grace of "Lawless" is the top notch acting all across the board. Even LaBeouf, as our protagonist Jack, finds the right note of ignorance, vulnerability and is our audience surrogate for this story.

The problem with "Lawless" is that while many individual elements work, they never form into a cohesive whole. The narration by Jack's character feels completely unnecessary, and therefore stalls the viewer's entry point into the story. It's not until Chastain and Pearce's characters are introduced that the movie takes off.

With the brothers themselves, Jack's romantic subplot involving the preacher's daughter, Bertha Minnix (Mia Wasikowska), is sweet but underdeveloped. The second brother, Howard, is played wonderfully by Jason Clarke, but his character never becomes anything more than a two-dimensional drunk.

But Hardy as Forrest is the most likeable of the three. He is difficult to understand, but his presence is felt in every scene. His romance with Maggie is absolutely endearing and believable.

And lastly, Pearce's performance as the villain is so over-the-top that you can't help but enjoy his character, and become terrified of him when he becomes incredibly twisted and evil.

The downside to the acting has to do with the criminally underused cameo appearance of the character Floyd Banner. Oldman's performance is exceptional for the five minutes he is on screen.

This leads to Lawless's biggest issue, which is the lackluster script. The story can't help but be predictable and underwritten, as certain aspects relating to confusing character actions and motivations lead to a lack of urgency and tension.

This film could have benefited from a longer-running screen time to flesh out every storyline and prevent the ending from being a disappointing anti-climax. And while the cinematography is great, the production design is a bit of a mix bag, as some sets feel authentic and others feel too Hollywood.

"Lawless" could have been so much more, and yet it is still worth your time because the acting is so good. However, catch it on DVD instead of taking a trip to the theater. I give this three out of five stars.

Photo courtesy of FilmNation Entertainment

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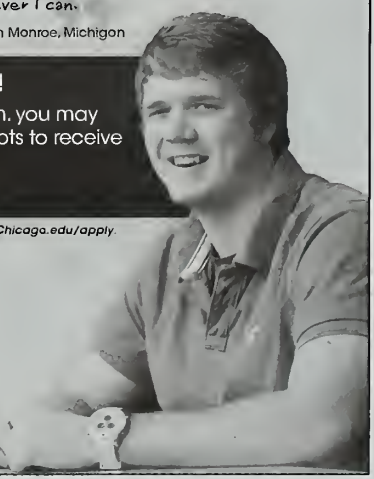

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King carries readers away with new book

New novel should be familiar to those who know the Dark Tower series

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Best-selling author Stephen King revisits his acclaimed Dark Tower series with a novel titled "The Wind Through the Keyhole." The Dark Tower series was officially concluded in 2004, but this novel fits in between the fourth and fifth book and can also be read as a novel on its own. The storyline is not directly tied to the series itself, but provides insight on some of the characters while crafting new tales of its own.

If you have read the Dark Tower series, you will recognize and learn a little bit more from this novel. If you have not read the Dark Tower books, "The Wind Through the Keyhole" is written in a way so that it is independent of the rest of the series, so there is no need to shy away from this experience.

This novel begins at a resting point in the series, and depicts the main characters seeking shelter from a Starkhlast, a horrific storm of ice that has hurricane force winds and frigid temperatures that detonates trees and destroys housing. While they wait through the night in tense restlessness, the leader and gunslinger Roland Deschain decides to tell the group stories of the past.

King shows how well he knows the craft of writing by telling two more stories within the novel, winding together in an almost "Inception-like" manner. He tells of himself going to Debaria to chase a Skin-man, a shape-shifting monster that devours and desecrates the flesh of his victims. During a graphic time of his life, he also meets Bill.

Bill is a boy who witnessed the Skin-man, and the monster killed his father. Roland needs him to help him stop the creature, but he also recognizes when a child needs comfort. He tells Bill a story his own mother would read to him as a boy, "The Wind Through the Keyhole."

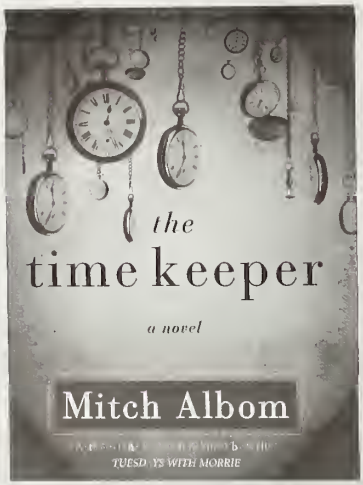
This story within a story has fantastic creatures, mutants and the dreaded Covenant Man who collects taxes from the village of Tree and asserts the right to live on the land. The protagonist, Tim Stoutheart, also lost his father, but to a dragon. His family is forced to take desperate measures to remain on his family's land and stay alive.

King winds in and out of all three of these tales with such ease that they hold on to the reader and keep them reading. Each ending is worth every minute and each journey is remarkable. The Dark Tower series began in 1984, and it's easy to see how even after all this time readers still want to hear more about these adventures.

Artwork by Jae Lee

Novel will make you lose track of 'Time'

Mitch Albom releases new science fiction, impresses reviewer



BY BRIDGET DRURY
Staff Writer

Mitch Albom's "The Time Keeper" is a fictional novel that is written in such a way that has readers pondering over the concept of time.

The novel is about a man named Dor who is proclaimed the first person to ever record the passage of time. Before him, people never kept track of the hour or even knew what it was. While creating time, Dor is absorbed into its literal concept, but does not understand the deeper meaning behind it.

In Albom's story, a mysterious man invades Dor's life and banishes him from society. Dor does not age and remains hiding and secluded until the man reappears and gives Dor a mission to find and help two people, a person who asks for more time and a person who asks for less time.

Along with that, Dor needs to understand how much time has impacted society long after his lifetime. What may seem cliché at first turns into a meaningful work of literature as Albom's characters go through real life situations when it comes to concepts of cramming for time, being on time and needing more time. It makes you wonder how much we say the word "time" and how we take it for granted.

Albom writes his story so it's relatable to people in our society today. Dor observes that people in our century are always in a hurry, or they are only focused on one aspect of their lives. Dor meets two people. One of whom we would call a workaholic, and the other a socially awkward girl in high school. Both people take time for granted. They are only focused on one thing in life and Dor analyzes everything they do and sees how the time he created has disrupted the lives of humanity.

He begins to wish he never measured time and numbers to begin with. What people do not realize is how often the word "time" is spoken, and Albom's gifted storytelling talent and creative point of view allows readers like me to think about how often the term is used.

When you read Dor's story about his fascination with time, you realize that time does get in the way of enjoying the little things in life. Albom's book is exceptionally written and the idea behind it is original and unlike any other books I have read in a long time.

The story includes a legend but is incorporated with the modern day world. If you are not into fantasy or legends like me, I would still recommend this book to anyone who is looking for something different.

Newly released in September, Albom's "The Time Keeper" has already been considered a best seller and a must read. I highly agree with this. If you are a reader who is looking for a novel that is unlike any other fictional tale, then consider this story. It will have you pondering about the idea of time and if you are using it wisely.

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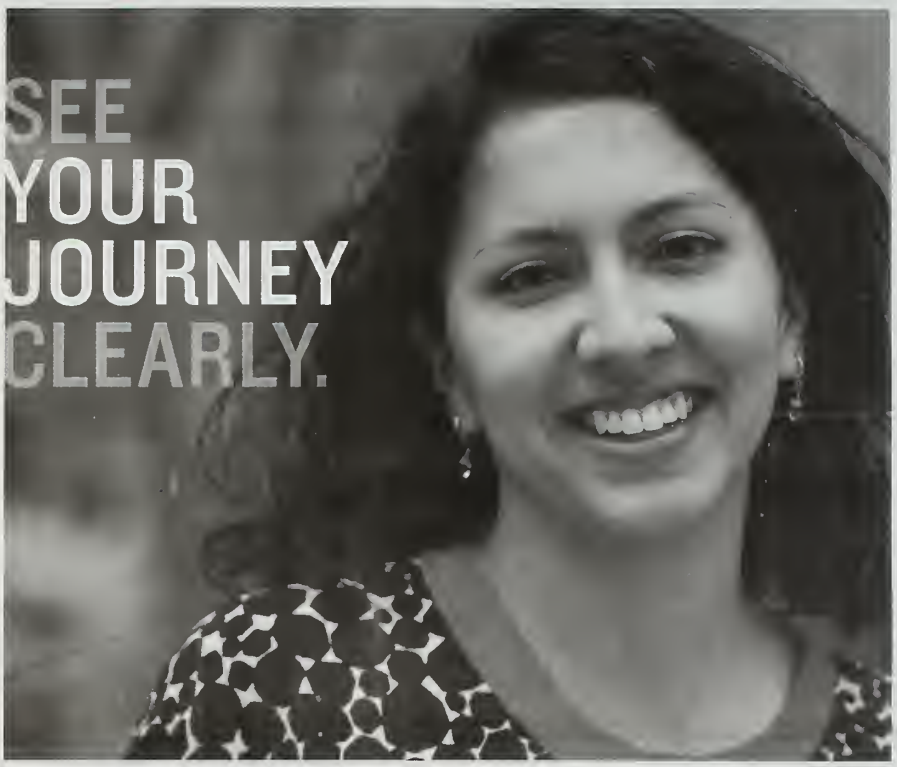

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BT takes on new music style

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Those familiar with electronica will most likely appreciate the chest-rattling thumps of dance anthems or the glitchy and spliced bass drops of dubstep. However, those who wish to kick back and relieve some stress can count on Grammy-nominated producer BT's latest 2012 album, "If the Stars Are Eternal, So Are You and I."

The album may have a lengthy name, but listeners will quickly discover minimalist beats leading the tempo of almost every track. The album is a stark departure from BT's previous releases, which featured more aggressive dance music with influences from hip-hop, jazz and progressive house.

This time, BT takes listeners on a gentle glide into space with near unparalleled ambience. A personal favourite track, "My Dark Garden", incorporates acoustic elements that are lazy and flowing. Relaxation is easy to achieve through BT's strings of atmospheric composition.

However, this same style can be too eerie if the listener is in the wrong mindset. "Seven-Hundred-Thirty-Nine" is a track that might leave you overwhelmed if ambient music isn't usually on your playlists. The noise that fills your headphones will sound like a cross between a haunted house and an intergalactic journey. Those who interpret ambient sounds as lonely will not enjoy any of the seven tracks, perhaps save for one.

BT manages to pull together a fresh take on dubstep in "13 Angels on My Broken Windowsill." BT shows that it is still characteristic of him to switch genres in the middle of a song. This is done masterfully as listeners are lulled into a predictable trance with mild and smooth glitch elements. The song suddenly breaks out into a dubstep crescendo more than halfway through the piece, then settles as quickly as it came on. This goes to show that dubstep shouldn't revolve around continual bass drops, but gradually build and decend like a trance song.

People who dislike huge, astronomical sound will not go for BT's tunes. It's also easy to critique BT on his habit of switching up genres. However, a unique listening experience is in store for those who love experimental music that pushes the envelope. BT does just this by offering up a new take on style. He is not afraid to try a new take on electronica, and that is what makes him a bright star in the realm of music.

Film review

Darkness lives inside in this new horror film

BY KRISTI BEDOLLA
Staff Writer

Whether it's the television ad featuring the infamous fingers peeking out of the little girl's mouth or the "based on a true story" tagline, "The Possession" captures your attention. Boatloads of suspense, a disturbing demon and an unfortunate family add this flick to the ever-growing list of exorcism horror movies already created. For all you horror movie lovers out there, this newly-released film, directed by Ole Bomedal, is one you might enjoy. Bomedal's previous films, "Nightwatch", and indie film "Just Another Love Story" add to the growing list of thrillers he has created.

The divorced parents, Clyde and Stephanie, played by Jeffery Dean Morgan and Kyra Sedgwick, have two children, Hannah and Emily played by new actors, Madison Davenport and Natasha Calis. The small family is trying to adjust to the changes a divorce brings, the separation between parents, new additions to their once close family and constant moving from one place to another.

Going from one house to another is a struggle for Emily, who wants the family to be whole. On the way to the father's new house, the three stop at a yard sale to purchase household items for the new place. Upon inspection of glassware, Emily notices a locked wooden box with strange engravings on the sides. Lo and behold, the strange box isn't what it seems. Once the box is opened, the father starts to see a change in Emily and upcoming events signal a turn for the worse.

When realization kicks in and bubbling, young Emily isn't whom she once was, the father and mother must enlist the help of a rabbi to cleanse and remove the curse that has been brought upon their beloved daughter.

Bomedal doesn't get crazy with special effects, which leaves the viewer feeling as if they were experiencing the turmoil themselves. The cinematography was crisp and clean, at times showing aerial views of the surrounding community and woods. The score goes along with the film, amplifying the eerie effect. The colors of the locations, costumes and makeup mesh well with the cold, woodsy atmosphere portrayed in the film.

I am not a huge fan of horror movies and was reluctant to go see this one, but two friends convinced me to come along anyway. There were a few moments where I jumped and covered my eyes, I'll admit. The ending had me leaving the movie theater surprised, and the eight dollars I spent was not wasted. If this movie says anything, it's that you never know what you might find at a yard sale.

Photo courtesy of Ghost House Pictures

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Commentary

Board's decision to cut football the right one?

By Tommy Stokke

Sports Editor

The sports fan side of me couldn't understand why the JJC Board of Trustees voted 6-1 last spring to remove the football program, effective this year, from the school after 61 years.

In many cases, the football program was the only reason why the student-athletes on the team were students. It provided a way to extend a player's athletic career another two years and in some cases beyond, such as current NFL players Rob Ninkovich and Kelvin Hayden.

But when I'm a sports writer, I remove my jersey and crumple it up on my bedroom floor. The decision made perfect sense from a business standpoint, and quite frankly, money is often the deciding factor. It's no different from the junior-college level to the Div. I level. The football program was producing a bill that cost the school upwards of $475,000 a year to run. Despite success on the football field, the program became a full-fledged bonfire of money, with not enough fans or support to put out the smoke.

But who's benefitting from the money being saved? Are we sure it's the athletic department, to improve uniforms, travel safety, and other expenses to improve the quality of the product being placed on the field, or even improve women's sports to improve the quality Title IX, as law created to keep male and female sports as equal as possible? Title IX, by the way, was one of the reasons for doing without the football program.

Was the decision to remove the football program right? I say yes. JJC prides itself on the community. Well, how much is the community benefitting from just 13 members of the football team coming from high schools within a 30-minute drive from the football field? Many of the players, including those seeing the majority of the field, come from Chicago, the St. Louis area, or even some southern states such as Florida, which doesn't have a single community college football team in-state.

That's no knock to former head coach Jeremy Richardson. His job was to put a quality product on the football field, and neither he nor athletic director Wayne King was ever directed to focus on area players over talent. But the dollars didn't add up. And the toll Title IX was taking on the college was too much to accommodate for a product losing money.

Saturday morning games saw grandma and grandpa come in to watch their grandson who graduated from Plainfield South or Lincoln-Way East. But is someone really making the travel from East St. Louis? Is the player from Hubbard bringing in a caravan of fans to pay admission to see their friend play? No, and that's the point. If they were, I can almost guarantee you would have the opportunity to see the Wolves put a quality product on the field at Joliet's Memorial Stadium this weekend.

Even students didn't make the trip to the stadium to watch the games on Saturday afternoons. "I think a very small percentage cared," King said of the student body. "It's a big void for our (athletic) department. But I understand the decision. Our in-district numbers were probably the lowest (of all sports) in football."

Thus, gone are Richardson and his seven assistants. The 42 freshmen due to return for their sophomore season either looked elsewhere or stayed at JJC, ending their chance at carrying on a football dream. We knew they would be gone. But what about the money saved? Where exactly did that all go?

Well, I'm not really sure, but it isn't all back into the athletic program.

Of the aforementioned $475,000 required to operate a football program, $250,000 of that was the operating budget, such as salaries and maintenance costs. With the football program gone, that should just be sitting in the athletic office for King and his staff to spread amongst the other programs, increasing the quality across the board. Right?

"We fought to keep it to boost the entire department on all kinds of things, but the powers above us saw differently," King said. "A lot of money was allocated somewhere. I think we were short-changed on the situation."

Maybe all $250,000 goes into the programs, but surely there's a penny or two left to increase supplies or better travel? For instance, the men's basketball program has $2,700 to spend on equipment this season, including funds for basketballs, uniforms, etc. And that's the 2009 national champion.

Maybe a few dollars to the defending NJCAA World Series champion baseball team can improve equipment and travel to make sure that crown stays in Joliet.

Women's teams have been successful as well, such as last year's women's volleyball team, who won the conference championship under Coach LaKisha Cameron. But wouldn't some of that saved money help improve those sports as well? If the school is getting rid of one sport, it might as well do what it can to make sure the others improve.

King is optimistic that under new leadership, the two sides can come to an agreement that provides the best benefits for all parties involved, particularly the student-athletes.

"I'm excited to be working with a new administration that is working for possible changes," he said.

If there aren't any changes, then who exactly benefits from the death of the 61-year-old program? It sure doesn't sound like the students.

Photo by Renee Ronzone

The women's volleyball team react to its victory over Milwaukee Tech.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Erick Ontiveros looks to score during JJC's 2-0 win over MATC.

Sports Roundup: Men's soccer moves to 5-1 in N4C

By Tommy Stokke

Sports Editor

German Ortega and Julio De Haro each scored in a 2-0 victory over Milwaukee Tech, moving the Wolves to 5-1 in conference and 6-3-1 overall.

Ortega started the scoring early in the 12th minute, followed closely behind De Haro's, who was assisted by Luis Perez, in the 17th minute. It was Ortega's third goal of the year, and De Haro's second, showing that the offense doesn't always have to be carried by leading scorer Marcos Gomez.

The soccer team travels to Triton College Oct. 3 for an N4C match, before taking on Madison College at home on Oct. 10. They end the regular season with home matches against South Suburban College and Malcom X College.

Women's Volleyball

Four straight wins have propelled Coach LaKisha Cameron's Lady Wolves to the .500 mark for the first time this season.

A 25-18, 25-23, 25-19 victory over Triton moved JJC to 5-3 in the conference, as well. Lone sophomore Emily Kramolisch is finding the freshmen with a team-high 345 assists.

Freshman Paige Cline has been the main recipient, putting down a team-high 123 kills, followed closely by Lizette Gonzalez (107). Cline's .437 hitting percentage is good for second in the nation. JJC has just three conference games remaining before the Region IV quarterfinals with matches against Madison, Rock Valley and College of DuPage.

Cross-Country

Sophomore Claudia Davila paced JJC with a time of 20:44 in the Illinois Intercollegiate Championships hosted by Illinois State. In a meet that featured runners from every level, including Div. I scholarship athletes, Davila finished 173rd overall, while the team placed 28th with 862 points. Jessica Price (25:58), Makena Koszela (27:01), Yessica Ibarra (30:45), Megan Weretka (30:49), and Kelly Stock (31:44) rounded out the scoring.

For the men, Sam Froemel led the Wolves with a time of 29:05. Lex Gordon (29:26), and Alex Forgue (31:17) also competed for head coach Rich McCarthy.

Both teams are at Benedictine Oct. 5.

Getting their kicks

Photos by Emily Gahan

Miriam Vargas (left) evades a Moraine Valley CC player during JJC's 3-2 victory in a recent home match. At right, Darcy Zack (right) lines up a kick during the same match. The Lady Wolves victory was their third straight in conference play.

Momentum building for playoff run

7-3 Lady Wolves survive injuries to position themselves in conference

BY TOMMY STOKKE
Sports Editor

Women's soccer coach Gino Di Nardo knows that, at full strength, his team should have no problem competing come playoff time.

Getting them and keeping them at full strength is the hard part. Having battled injuries throughout the entire season, Di Nardo hopes his team can keep getting healthy to carry over the building momentum throughout the last six games and into the postseason.

"My major concern is injuries to some of the starters," Di Nardo said. "Keeping them healthy for the remainder of the season is a major factor."

Despite many players being on the mend, the Lady Wolves (7-3) have overcome the injuries for a run at both conference, and throughout the playoffs. After suffering its first conference loss in overtime 3-2 to DuPage, JJC has sprung together three straight wins over Morton (3-1) Harper (5-0) and Moraine Valley (3-2). Milwaukee Area Tech. College forfeited during that stretch as well.

"It's been up and down after the loss to DuPage," Di Nardo said. "That one got away from us. We were short-handed following that game due to all sorts of injuries, but overall we responded well and made some adjustments."

The return of Steffany Lara and Isabel Razo will boost a roster already seeing standout performances by Ely Mireles (13 goals), Britney Lenza (9) and Tiffany P'Pool (4). Defense from Jessica Kaminski, Darcy Zack and Miriam Vargas are keeping games close in front of keeper Lauren Fowler.

"Take it a game at a time, and minimize the injuries. We want as many players healthy for the playoffs as we can."
- Coach Gino Di Nardo

Mireles' effort stands out, in particular. She scored both goals for the Lady Wolves in the overtime loss to DuPage, She added another goal in a one-goal victory over Moraine, behind 11 saves from Fowler.

The team hopes to get healthy at the right time.

"The team and coaches believe that momentum is on our side, with 6 games left we are trying to mass as many wins as we can heading into the playoffs," said Di Nardo. "I told the team every game is important. Take it a game at a time and minimize the injuries. We want as many players healthy for the playoffs as we can."

While the efforts from those in uniform are obviously critical, DiNardo can't help but thank those who are helping them get there.

"I do give credit to our athletic trainers for their effort in keeping our ladies going strong."

The soccer team closes out its season with games against Triton College (Oct. 3, home), College of DuPage, Parkland College, Scott Community College (Oct. 15, home) and South Suburban College.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

The male athlete of the issue is freshman Jonathon Iniquez. Iniquez has started in all seven games that he has played. Iniquez currently has three goals, with a shot on goal percentage of .375 and 10 points for the year. With Iniquez, the Wolves currently hold a record of 7-3-1 overall and a conference record of 5-1.

Jonathon Iniquez

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

The female athlete of the issue is sophomore Eliosa Mireles. Mireles has started three games and played in a total of nine. Mireles currently has 12 goals and four assists with 28 points on the season. Mireles boasts a shot on goal percentage of .414. Mireles has registered six goals in the past five games. The Lady Wolves, with the help of Mireles, hold a record 7-3 overall and a 3-1 conference record.

Eliosa Mireles

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012 VOLUME 85 ISSUE 3

Photo by Renee Ronzone

Marjorie, played by Jasmine Young, tortures her captive Raul, played by Stephen King.

Locked up for a good cause

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 5, three respected employees of JJC will be apprehended and brought to justice at Cemeno's Pizza in Joliet. These pseudo-arrests will be in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and its efforts to fund research and opportunities to aid victims of muscular dystrophy.

Chief Peter Comanda of the JJC Police Department, Director of Student Activities and Student Life Pam Dilday and Women's Volleyball Coach LaKisha Cameron are all participating in this event. They have been asked to post $1,750 in bond in order to be released.

This may seem like a large sum of money, but this amount could fund 25 minutes of life-saving research. To put this into perspective, it takes $100 to fund one support group session, $500 to repair a wheelchair, a set of leg braces or a communication device and $800 to send a child to one full week of MDA summer camp.

Any support that the participants receive will not only be appreciated by them and the MDA, but also by the children that will benefit from the aid.

"This whole fundraiser is very dear to me. I have two neighbors, two boys, with muscular dystrophy. When you see it every day it makes it real. It makes you appreciate the need for a cure," Comanda said.

Comanda has been inspired to go behind bars for a good cause, and wishes to help spread this message so that people are aware of what many children are going through and the need for funding to support them.

Muscular dystrophy is, in many cases, a fatal disease. It can permanently hinder each human being affected by it. Approaching this problem early in someone's life with help and support can go a long way in encouraging their success.

If you would like to support this cause, you can stop by Cemeno's Pizza on Nov. 5 to donate, or encourage all those involved. If you would like to help prevent good people going behind bars, you can click your way to www2.mda.org/goto/

See CAUSE on page 5

JJC looking for new student trustee

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

With the resignation of Student Trustee Dama Calderon for personal reasons, the position is now open to a courteous, involved and responsible student who is committed to JJC's values and is willing to put in the time to be a representative for the college.

The student trustee serves a vital role in representing student views on the JJC Board of Trustees.

Some responsibilities of the student trustee involve attending board meetings, viewing and providing feedback on administrative documents and being a member of Student Government. The student trustee also attends several meetings a month, participates as a student speaker at ceremonies and events and attends Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee meetings.

The student trustee also reaches out to students and attends club events to gauge the climate of the campus. The trustee keeps the campus population informed and encourages participation.

"The student trustee is the voice of the students," said Pam Dilday, director of student activities. "You'll have a fabulous network with statewide legislative officials."

Networking opportunities abound for the chosen trustee, which is perfect for students interested in pursuing a political career. The position requires someone who is not afraid to interact with students and other members of the college community on a regular basis.

The position also allows the student trustee to meet new people and form lasting professional bonds.

Other responsibilities include communicating freely with the college president and serving as an ambassador of good will for the college.

A student trustee must have earned nine credit hours and must be currently attending classes for at least six credits. Candidates cannot be employees or student workers and must be in good academic standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The student trustee cannot have any Code of Conduct violations or any prior criminal history. A background check will be performed.

Students who are interested in running must gather 50 signatures on a petition available in the Office of Student Affairs area. The deadline to return all petitions is Oct. 30.

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 7, candidates will be interviewed by the vice president of student development, the dean of students and the director of student activities and student government.

The election will be held Nov. 8 and 9, with the one-year term beginning on Nov. 13.

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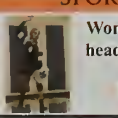
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EDITORIAL

College counts, but ambition comes first

It's around that time of year again. The anxiety of midterms and research papers galore weigh heavily on every student's already crammed psyche. The library and tutoring centers are filled with new life and increasingly, students are found napping on every possible surface around campus.The college admissions rush has also begun, inevitably leaving a group of low-income and less-than-stellar students struggling to keep up the pace.

While it is essential that students going into degree-dependent fields (like law and medicine) are diligent when it comes to academic achievement, the Blazer acknowledges that human talent and intellect is a wide and varied spectrum.

Some professions don't necessarily require a traditional college education. *In fact,* especially in the case of some health, arts, athletic and manual labor careers, pure expertise is more of a deciding factor than a bachelor's degree.

Also, not everyone finds enjoyment or succeeds in a purely academic environment. Many entrepreneurs, for instance, find more value in real world experience than in the classroom. Just look at the late Steve Jobs, who dropped out of Reed College and became CEO of Apple. Almost everyone knows of at least one notable person who dropped out of college or never attended it.

However, the prevalent stigma is that a four-year education is the sole gateway to a fulfilling existence. Here at JJC, students in two-year allied health and technical programs will tell you that isn't the case. Still, a 2011 Gallup poll found that 69 percent of American *adults strongly agree that* a university degree is essential for a good job.

But what constitutes a good job? Joseph Campbell's philosophy to "follow your bliss" is not merely a dismissible cliché. To many, an architect is a prestigious career choice, while a construction worker is not.

The Blazer questions why this bias is the case, especially since both professions are indispensable when it comes to literally building up culture and society.

If someone is perfectly content in a career that others think is dismal or too simplistic, then who is to say that person's happiness is false? After all, happiness is the ideal pursuit in a culture that praises motivation and innovation.

This is not to say that a college education isn't a valuable place to hone skills and expand horizons. Some students who excel in *an academic environment* should consider a four-year liberal arts education. These students will most likely thrive in college life.

Nevertheless, a person's worth should never be determined by the amount of secondary education they receive. Depending on a person's set of extremely individual interests and talents, traditional colleges may not be right for them.

Keep this in mind while paying off student loans and eying that private college that costs an arm and a leg in tuition and fees. Talent and persistence almost always trumps credentials and flagship universities. Students all hear college graduate horror stories of mountainous debt and frustrating underemployment.

While settling for less is definitely not positive, stressing out over achieving more than required to accomplish your goals will do more harm than good. *Take a deep breath and* have a good night's sleep. Learn to trust yourself over your GPA occasionally.

Where has all the time gone?

BY AUTUMN PULVERMACHER
Staff Writer

So lately I've been thinking about time. Why does it pass us by so fast when we're having fun, and so slowly when we're not? I don't know about you, but I'm amazed by how fast this year has gone by. Where did all that time go? It seems like summer just ended yesterday and already the Christmas decorations are up at the stores. It feels like there's just not enough time in the day to get things done (like homework, work and chores), let alone time for yourself and those who are important to you.

As we students all know so well, when you work and go to school, you definitely have very little extra time to spare. I miss all the things I took for granted when I wasn't in school, like pleasure reading, going out to sing karaoke and catching a movie. Maybe that Justin Timberlake movie wasn't so far off the mark after all. Perhaps time could be for sale in the future.

We know that there's not enough of it to go around right now, so if extra time were for sale, would you take it? I would. I'd spend it with the people I love and carve out a little time for myself too. I'd go to that movie with my boyfriend or grab lunch with my mom and sisters.

I'd grab a drink with my best friend and go sing our favorite songs together ("Heartache Tonight" by the Eagles is one of our best). I'd even spend some

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Eric Mcewen, Kelsi Bertheaume, Lorenza Jackson, Eric Manahan, Autumn Pulvermacher, Victoria Shiner, April Musilek, Adriana Vazquez, Bridget Drury

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Opinion

Raising breast cancer awarenes

By Eric Monahan
Staff Writer

With October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month coming to a close, pink ribbons, pink hats, pink bracelets and pink wristbands are out in full force, but somehow it still isn't enough.

These symbols aren't simply in recognition of a disease that cripples lives and families, but rather they represent a continual struggle that affects lives every month of the year. We can push forward this cause if we stand together to overcome this disease.

This year, the JJC volleyball team has started selling breast cancer awareness t-shirts. These shirts not only raise money for a charity called Side-Out, an organization that promotes awareness through sports, but the sales also raise attention about the battle against cancer.

The volleyball team also plays a game wearing breast cancer-themed uniforms to raise awareness each year. However, this year the team is playing during the entire month wearing these uniforms.

This disease has even affected my mom. Picture yourself being 16-year-old and learning that your mom has a disease that can kill her. Also, the treatment isn't always successful, and that could kill her as well. When I heard the news I started to cry. My world stopped. Even a pin drop could have echoed for an eternity in that moment. It wasn't because my mom had a disease, but it was because of what could happen because of this disease.

Since then, my mom has been declared cancer-free and undergoes screenings to make sure that no cancerous cells grow back. Since her diagnosis, I have been an advocate for breast cancer awareness.

I do this in many ways. Sure, there are always people talking about it and spreading the word, but I would rather show the world I am a supporter at all times. I have a breast cancer hat, lanyard, jump drive, water bottle and car decal. These things aren't meant to g the impression I'm a sl off by any means, but t they improve awarenes Cancer can strike at an month, year or day. It doesn't take a break so should I?

Even if I inspire only one person to go get checked out or help spr awareness, it makes all difference in the world Don't become a statisti when it comes to this deadly disease, and be supporter and an advoc If nothing else, just do part.

News

Exploring our Milky Way Galax

By Lorenzo Jackson
Staff Writer

Technology has increased significantly since Galileo's time, but with all this technology do we really know what is happening in the center of our galaxy? Farhad Yusef-Zadeh, professor of astrophysics at Northwestern University, said a series of high-powered telescopes has tapped into the motion of the stars, their flaring activity and star formation to accurately depict what the center of our galaxy has to offer.

The lecture on Oct. 18 was fully informative and offered a tasteful look at outer space for astronomy-lovers and curious students. In a normal lecture hall, his public talk had filled every seat and captured everyone's attention throughout as he dug up pictures, videos and artist renditions of our universe.

"Stars are actors and astronomers become directors, making few-second black-and-white movies that are equivalent to years upon years of observation," said Zadeh.

Sadly, the given hour did not offer enough time to finish the lecture, but Zadeh was more than willing to answer questions and offer further explanations after the PowerPoint presentation was (mostly) finished.

Zadeh attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook for his undergraduate degree in physics. Then, he got his Ph.D. in astronomy from Columbia University in 1986. He spent two years at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center as a National Research Council post-doctoral fellow before going to Northwestern as a professor, teaching there for 20 years and counting.

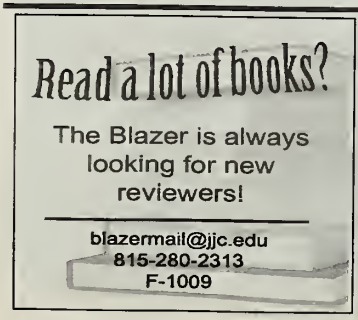
He is currently interested in learning about the main processes in the nucleus of the galaxy, super nova remnants, molecular clouds and star formations in regions of ionized hydrogen.

When asked if he owns a telescope himself, Zadeh explained that he doesn't personally, b does schedule to view the powered telescopes discuss the lecture when spots ope If you want to view some o pictures or videos shown a lecture, or if you attende presentation and want to e upon what you had seen, yo visit the website ESO.org.

TIME from page 2

of it by myself watching movies with my cat all day.

Unfortunately, that's not an option, so what's the answer (besides five-minute mental vacations and yearning for winter break)? It's multitasking. "Enjoy every moment to the fullest," A 102-year-old woman said when recently asked about what the secret was to living a long life. After all, time is precious and slipping away. So make the most out of your day and whatever time you have in it. And read a book for me, would you? Thanks.



JJC raises awareness for disabilities

Lecture informs students and faculty members of the challenges some face

BY ASHLEY MURRAY
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 4, an event highlighting disability awareness took place on the bridge. It was led by Lori Smith-Okon, who is the counselor for the STAR department, and Karen Hatfield, who is an education accommodation specialist for STAR.

The main idea of this event was to raise student and faculty awareness about different disabilities, the challenges students face and what accommodations are available to help them succeed.

"I am hoping that students gain more compassion and knowledge towards people with disabilities," Hatfield said when asked about what students would possibly gain from this from this event. At the event, many students talked about their disabilities and also answered questions from the audience.

"Even though I can't hear as well, my disability doesn't affect my life," said Veronica Pollard, one of the students who spoke up about her hearing disability. There were also four sessions which showed videos about students talking about their disabilities. Two siblings, Kevin and Michelle Huckfeldt, told a few people about their learning disability.

The students also did stimulation exercises that were meant to mimic the challenges of different disabilities. This included cerebral paisley, where the students had to wear garden gloves while trying to tie shoes and open up pill bottles.

There was also a student in a wheelchair who spoke at one session and reminded everyone how important it was to put people with disabilities first, such as being courteous in public spaces like elevators and bathrooms. In the last session, Amy Tschiggfrie and Nick Tamburelli talked about how their disability was affecting their life, and how they are coping with it. Basically, the students who spoke are all regular people and don't expect to be treated any differently. When asked if she was planning on hosting this event again, Hatfield said, "It's definitely a possibility."

The STAR department helps students with all types of disabilities. To get into the STAR program, students must bring in documentation and information about their disability. Then, they go through an intake interview and a new student orientation. To get more information, you can find the STAR department in A-1125, or you can call them at (815) 280-2230.

Students explore JJC's annual College Night

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

More than 100 colleges and universities lined the main concourses of JJC on Oct. 9 from 5:30-8 p.m. A crowd of eager and overwhelmed students from high schools and community colleges around the area gathered to question representatives and gauge their chances of getting *into their dream schools. Even* out-of-state colleges such as Arizona University were among the seemingly endless options available to an undecided student.

The fair hosted small private colleges, such as the University of St. Francis, and large state universities like the popular University of Illinois campuses. A student with a six-inch mohawk seemed instantly attracted to the Shimer Great Books College of Chicago, a nontraditional college setting that focuses on a curriculum of classic books instead of text books. It also *offers students a rare chance to* study overseas at the University of Oxford.

Whatever it is students are looking for when it comes to a four-year institution, Brian Hodges, an admissions counselor for the University of Illinois at Springfield, stated that the most important aspect of transitioning into university life is to take challenging classes and consistently do well in them in high school or at community college.

While many public and private institutions expressed that JJC *transfer students are not required* to submit the same documentation (such as ACT or SAT scores) as incoming freshman, academic excellence is still important, if not more so. Proper communication regarding transferable credits is also a must.

"The main thing students need to think about when coming to NIU as a transfer student is what program they're interested in. They must stay in contact with our admissions counselors and their community college counselors as well," said Russ Deueraux, a Northern Illinois University representative. "Stay in touch and ask the right questions. It makes the whole process of transferring a lot better."

Another admissions counselor, Matthew Gruger, from University of Illinois at Chicago expressed that it is essential for transfer students to know about each university's transfer guide.

"A lot of the universities have transfer guides on their websites and will show exactly what (courses) will transfer. They outline what the minimum (required) courses are so students should be aware that sometimes just having an associate degree won't cover required courses," said Gruger.

Fortunately, JJC has many resources available to students ready to take the next step in their academic lives. JJC has begun hosting transfer advising workshops, which helps students develop a step-by-step plan of action when it comes to choosing the right school and selecting relevant courses. The next sessions will take place Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 8 at 12 p.m. Another college fair featuring private universities will take place Oct. 30 from 10-1 p.m.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Students of all ages attend College Night on JJC's main concourse.

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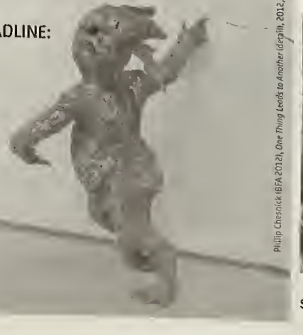

Phillip Chmielak (BFA 2012), *One Thing Leads to Another* (detail), 2012, cast aluminum

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Musica Viva: education and entertainment

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 14, Thomas Liley performed on the saxophone with accompanist Mathew Gianforte on the piano. This performance was a part of the Musica Viva series hosted at JJC.

Liley is a respected professor of music here at JJC. Throughout his life, he has performed, lectured and authored for many people and in many places. These include not only his classes here, but also reach as far away as Bangkok, China. While in China, he performed on the saxophone with colleague Daniela Broderick on piano, as well as a Latvian violinist and a Polish cellist to an audience representing over 70 countries.

This performance was the highlight of the 40th Annual World Saxophone Congress and was later repeated with Liley, Broderick and two different performers from within the US as a part of the Musica Viva series.

For the Oct.14 performance, Liley performed pieces either by or for a mentor of his own, Eugene Rousseau, perhaps in tribute of him. He began with a small introduction, which ineluded a lecture. However, this was not your typical form of education. He chose to take the time to inform the audience about what was going to be heard and what makes important musical moments special.

Whether it was changing the melody to notes that cannot be found on the piano or in nontraditional ways of performing, such as using the saxophone as a percussion instrument, Liley explained what was going to happen before the piece and enriched the audience experience.

In terms of performance, the music was professionally done by both parties. Liley and Gianforte delivered a professional-level performance that was very much unlike the popular music of today. What made the performance so enjoyable for such a varied audience is the time that was taken to explain important details so that whether an audience member was part of the music faculty, a student majoring in music or someone who chose to enjoy free-admission entertainment, everyone began their experience on the same page and could enjoy the musical experience on similar levels.

This is the true purpose of Musica Viva, to present diverse musical opportunities for anyone willing to spend the time attending the concert, no matter what level of musical experience they have. Liley's performance was one of these opportunities, but there are more performanees to come. The next performance will be on Jan. 27. The JJC Fine Arts Department encourages the attendance of anyone interested in enjoying any concert it has to offer.

CAUSE from page 1

pcomanda to help free Comanda, or replace the ending of the link with "pdilday" for Dilday, or "lcameron" for Cameron, similar to how you would send an email to a JJC address.

If you can't support by donation, encouragement and support is always welcome. Each of the participating faculty hopes to see students eager to get involved with the fund raiser and have some fun seeing them in "prison."

Calendar of Events

- Oct 25 Japan Study Abroad Information Session
- Oct 26 Last Day for Fall 2012 Financial Aid Transactions
- Oct 26 The Science of Speed
- Oct 29 JJC Middle East Fest
- Oct 29 Community Resource ar Employment Fair
- Oct 31 Student Music Recital
- Oct 31 Halloween Costume Contest
- Nov 3 Discover JJC
- Nov 6 Mind Blowing Chris Carte
- Nov 6 Comfort Zones
- Nov 7 Stress Relief Day
- Nov 9 Veteran's Day Ceremony
- Nov 14 Handcrafted Jewelry Holiday Sale
- Nov 14 Karaoke
- Nov 15 Holiday Happenings 201
- Nov 15 Thanksgiving Buffet

Is your favorite event not listed? Contact the Blazer! Email: Blazermail@jjc.edu

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"When I visited Concordia-Chicago I really liked the small campus feeling where you can get to know the professors and other students and become friends. I'm on the track team at CUC, and this year I have the opportunity to build my leadership skills as team captain. I'm really appreciative of the fact that my fellow student-athletes voted for me, and I want to do everything I can to be a great leader and captain."

—Daniel Mueller, graphic arts major and marketing minor from Elmwood Park, Illinois

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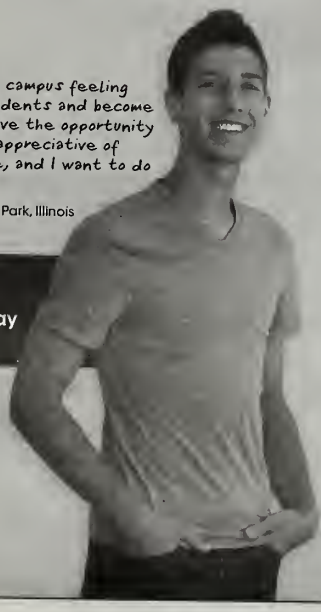

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'Extremities' makes a point between revenge and judgment

By Lorenzo Jackson
Staff Writer

"Extremities," written by William Mastrosimone and directed by Nikki Blowers, took place in JJC's new Blackbox Theatre on Oct. 18-20. Being the first play to take place in this new setting, playgoers were able to experience the theatre for the first time.

Due to the significant nature of this situation, as expected the play would match the occasion. "Extremities" is a play with an acting cast of four people. The play is a raunchy, edgy and dark-humored production about a serial rapist named Raul. He trespasses into the home of Marjorie in an attempt to rape her, but the tables are turned on him when Marjorie sprays him in face with bug spray and locks him up in her fireplace.

As Raul becomes a victim of torture, his fate is left in the hands of Marjorie and her two roommates, Terry and Patricia.

The Blackbox Theatre, only able to seat 75 people, was filled to the brim with onlookers enjoying the intimate feel and transparent separation between them and the actors. The crowd fell into the story and was instantly drawn in to the actors' conflict.

"I felt the tension, I thought the audience was definitely feeling it too," said Assistant Director Miguel Garcia.

Two of the actors were making their first debut with this play. Stephen King, who plays Raul, the lying, manipulative rapist who is tied up and waiting for his judgment, and Jasmine Young as the aggressive roommate, Marjorie. Both actors, despite this being a tough entrance into the theatre scene, started a little shaky, but made the show by the end with the help of the more seasoned actors on set with them.

Faith Berry, who played Patricia, and Sylmarie Soto, who played Terry, had a constant foundation of acting skill that King and Young could build off of.

"Faith and Syl are used to this and the other two were nervous, but as it went on they fed off of each other and smoothed out," said Chris Floyd, assistant stage manager.

After the show, the meaning of the performance was hit home by the placing of a booth with sexual harassment pamphlets and handouts. According to Blowers, "There is a fine line between judgment and revenge, and from what I saw in the audience, the point was made."

Photo by Renee Ronzone

Marjorie wonders what to do with her captured assailant.

JJC art gallery grand opening

By Kelsi Bertheaume
Staff Writer

A grand opening reception was held on Oct. 11 in the new Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery in J-1004, formerly known as the JJC bookstore, and featured new and old artworks of past JJC students.

The inaugural fall 2012 exhibition, Now and Then, officially opened on Sept.17 and will continue its run until Oct. 19. This art exhibition has been curated by Joe B. Milosevich and Pedro J. Palacios. Various artworks found in the room range from paintings, drawings, sculptures, digital art, ceramics, stoneware, mixed media and embroidery. The biggest art piece in the venue was created by Stephen Edward Sainsbury, who last attended JJC in 2009 and now has a BFA in printmaking.

The artwork, "Panels 5 and 6," created in 2012, is an intaglio etching and spans across an intersection of two walls. The simplicity of the piece is apparent, but the hidden meaning makes the artwork worthwhile.

His then piece, "Ergonomic by Design," a painting of acrylic on panel completed in 2009, is colorful with pieces of cloth and wood. This artwork stands out in comparison to the newer work and shows the artist's expertise in a clear fashion. A statement given by the artist says "(I) thought that changing certain aspects of my life would inherently change the way I made my artwork and what my work would be about."

The patrons that arrived for the reception were enthusiastic for the artwork shown, taking time to look at every single piece.

The renovation of the room is very casual, with a small bench for those who want to admire the art from all angles. The brightness of the room shows off the many artists' artwork exceptionally well. The atmosphere of the night was inviting as patrons appraised artists for their creativity and execution.

An upcoming exhibition runs from Nov. 13 to Dec. 7. It presents art from art instructors at the area high schools. A reception and following awards ceremony will be held on Nov. 29.

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Aurora University

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Photo by Renee Ronzone

Marjorie wonders what to do with her captured assailant.

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Film Review

Horror film starts slow but ends on a high note

By Kristi Bedolla
Staff Writer

It's October, the month of color-changing leaves, chilly temperatures and Halloween. What else goes along with Halloween better than good ol' horror movies? With a creepy forest, a lonely, outcasted kid and scandalous murders, director Mark Tonderai's newest movie, "House at the End of the Street," is one to check out.

This movie begins with Elissa (Jennifer Lawrence), a teenage girl who moves into a new house, along with her divorced mother Sarah (Elisabeth Shue). The whole town is aware of their neighbor's house, the site of a gruesome double murder by brain damaged daughter Carrie-Ann, who killed both her parents. It was assumed that she drowned in the nearby dam, but her body was never found. The lone inhabitant in the house is now Ryan (Max Thieriot), Carrie-Ann's brother, who did not live with the family at the time of the murders.

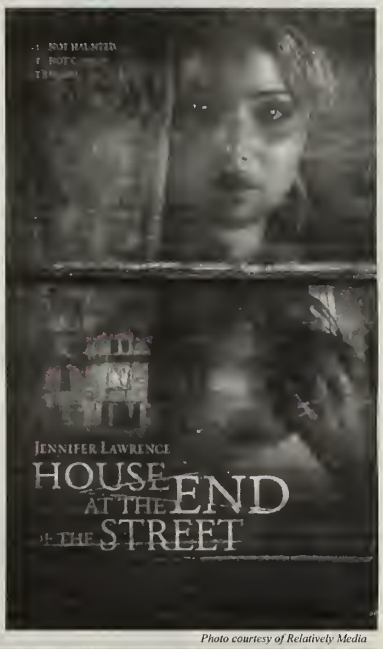
As soon as the plot begins, the audience learns of Ryan's secret. Carrie-Ann is still alive and confined in the basement. He tells Carrie-Ann to leave Elissa alone in hopes of getting to know her. Elissa meets Ryan, knowing of his terrible past and befriends him.

It escalates into a relationship, and Elissa's mother warns her of Ryan and her repeating act of making damaged souls her "project." Elissa invites Ryan to her Battle of the Bands show, but violence is unleashed on Ryan's car by scum Tyler (Nolan Gerard Funk) and his buddies. Ryan retaliates and flees, leaving Elissa. She returns the car to his house, searching for him. While going through the house and his stuff, questions raise as to what is really going on in his house.

The plotline was slow at first. It dragged along until the end when action finally starts to occur. The acting done by Lawrence in this movie was what kept me interested throughout the film. The cinematography, done by Miroslaw Baszak, was executed really well, especially in scenes inside the forest having that creepy, "someone is watching me" feel.

The lighting was also done well, capturing the beauty of the landscape as well as an ominous atmosphere of Ryan's house. The musical score moved the movie along, adding extra suspense in the last half of the movie. I went and saw this movie because of Lawrence, who did a stunning job as Katniss in "The Hunger Games."

I really enjoyed the ending more than the first half of the movie. I recommend this movie to those who like horror movies with a good ending. I give this movie three-and-a- half rating out of five.



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Elmhurst College

Roundup: Men and women in playoffs

By Tommy Stokke
Sports Editor

After suffering a defeat against Triton in conference play, the Wolves men's soccer team bounced back in a big way while carrying the momentum into the Region IV championship game scheduled for Oct. 24 at home.

The 2-1 defeat to Triton on Oct. 3 stung, but Coach Cristobal Trillo's squad rebounded with an 11-0 rout on Oct. 10 over N4C rival Madison.

Marcos Gomez kept his outstanding season going with five goals and two assists to lead JJC, while Erick Ontiveros scored two goals of his own.

A 3-2 loss to South Suburban on Oct. 12 was just a minor bump for JJC as it extended its season with a 2-1 win on the road at Harper on Oct. 20.

Sitting at 9-5-1 on the season, the tenth win would be the most important. The Wolves will have that opportunity in the Region IV championship on their home field.

Coach Gino Di Nardo of the Wolves women's soccer team also hopes his season isn't over just yet.

Unfortunately, his team was on the wrong end of a blowout, falling in Champaign to Parkland College, 10-0, on Oct. 10, while managing just seven shots.

Rather than dwell on the defeat, the Lady Wolves responded with back-to-back wins.

Jessica Kaminski, Eliosa Mireles and Tiffany P'Pool each scored in JJC's 3-0 win over Scott Community College on Oct. 15. In the regular season finale, Mireles and Britney Lenza each scored in a 2-0 shutout of South Suburban on Oct. 17.

Di Nardo's 9-6 team was scheduled to play Harper Community College in the Region IV semifinals on Tuesday, Oct. 23. The *Blazer* went to print before that game was played. Going into that game, JJC had wins of 4-2 and 5-0 over Harper this season.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Cross-Country

Froemel tops expectations; Davila leads women

By Tommy Stokke
Sports Editor

Sam Froemel might've been an afterthought heading into the cross-country season this year, but he's clearly out-run his expectations.

As a result, he's out-run most of his competition as well.

Froemel, a freshman, came into the year expected to be the No. 2 option at best behind Lex Gordon for Rich McCarthy's men's team, but Froemel is not only the No. 1 runner for the Wolves, but he's making his way towards the top of the country much quicker than McCarthy, and probably even he, expected.

"He's adjusted much quicker than any freshman I've ever had," McCarthy said, who's in his seventh year coaching both the men and women's teams. "What he's doing right now is the equivalent of what we expect in a sophomore."

Froemel's first race resulted in a 30-minute time, according to McCarthy. Two weeks ago, he recorded a school record at the Benedictine Invitational with an 8K time of 27:19, an average mile of 5:29. A week later, he finished fourth at Sauk Valley with a time of 28:04.

Impressed? Just know that McCarthy believes he's just getting started.

"He's a really hard worker and his ability to have the capacity to run as hard as he does is exceptional," he said. "He can get much, much faster. He's still building mileage. He's on his way to a top three finish in conference, and a top 25 or 15 finish at Nationals. He's doing things that kids at the Division I level do."

The Minooka graduate comes from a cross-country program under Kevin Gummerson that has produced multiple runners at JJC and beyond. Despite all his early achievements, his head remains safely attached to his shoulders.

"He's a pretty easy-going kid," McCarthy said. "He's got a quiet confidence about him that he knows he's doing well, but he will never say it. I think he's surprised himself a little. Coming into the season, he had never run a 10K in his life. I look forward to next week to see how he does."

Not to be forgotten is Claudia Davila, who has led the women's team to a No. 8 ranking in the nation. The sophomore is picking up right where she left off from her All-American freshman campaign.

Davila gives McCarthy plenty of confidence in his team not only for conference, but beyond.

"Having her on the team really makes it hard for other teams in the conference to beat us," he said. "She's a much more mature runner this year. She's the first to get to practice and the last to leave. She's having another exceptional season."

Expectations are even higher for her this season before she's likely to move on to a four-year school and participate in track and field in the spring. McCarthy says she's right on pace.

"She wants to get top five at Nationals, and she's right on target. She's getting faster and faster. She just does what she's asked and makes it a little easier to do my job."

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SPORTS

Photos by Renee Ronzone

Left: A JJC duo teams up for a block in the Lady Wolves' loss to Rock Valley. Paige Cline (right) records one of her six kills in the 25-18, 27-25, 25-16 loss to Rock Valley.

Playoffs begin at home Oct. 24 at 6 p.m.

Women's volleyball not done with surprises

BY TOMMY STOKKE
Sports Editor

Early in the season, women's volleyball coach LaKisha Cameron said wins and losses didn't matter, and that with such a young team she would base her judgments on the overall play of her team.

Having won five of the last six matches heading into the postseason, the wins have created a vibe around the team that they might not be done just yet.

On Sept. 15, the Lady Wolves sat a season-high five games under .500 at 6-11, which was particularly tough considering all that last year's team accomplished: 32 wins and a N4C conference title.

But this team isn't last year's team, and according to Cameron shouldn't be compared.

"We aren't worried about what happened last year," Cameron said, who is in her fourth year at JJC. "Everyone wants to compare stats between this year and last year, but I just tell the girls to be what you can be. I'm proud of where they are, and we're still capable of doing some surprising things."

Even the notion that this team is capable of a run in the postseason is remarkable in itself, all things considered. Cameron returns zero players from last year's squad and boasts just one sophomore, Emily Kramolisch, a transfer.

Among those freshmen, are Hailee Clark, Paige Cline and Lizette Gonzalez, all of whom are playing out of their natural position. Clark and Gonzalez, both natural setters, are at outside hitter and middle hitter, while Cline moved over to right side from middle hitter.

"They're all just stepping up and playing for each other," Cameron said. "There's been no complaining. They've each done what they've been asked to do, and they continue asking questions about how to improve and adjust. They're just so coachable and not one-dimensional."

Sitting at 20-17 after the 6-11 start is nice, of course. But it's the effort that has Cameron talking.

"Early in the year, our youth made it difficult to adjust to the level of play," she said. "As the year went on, everyone adjusted to their new positions, we started playing together with more confidence. All I want is for us to play hard, and end the season playing hard."

The recent success and overall ability has earned respect for the school and athletes amongst higher-level schools. It's also presented a pretty picture for what could be an even better team than last year's. When last year's team was made up of mostly freshmen, they finished 22-22.

In the grand scheme of things, it doesn't really matter what the record book says to Cameron.

"I'm not worried about records," she said. "You can play great and lose, or play like crap and win. If you lose playing with everything you've got, then fine. I'll be happy as long as each player can look her teammate in the face and say I did everything I could."

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

The Blazer's male athlete of the issue is freshman cross-country runner Sam Froemel. Froemel, Minooka, finished fourth overall at Sauk Valley CC with an overall with a time if 28:04. Froemel, who has hopes of reaching nationals, also recorded a school record with a time of 27:19 in the Benedictine Invitational 8k race. He, along with the rest of the team, will compete at the Region IV championship at Sauk Valley Community College on October 27.

Sam Froemel

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

The Blazer's female athlete of the issue is freshman volleyball player Lizette Gonzalez. Gonzalez helped the Lady Wolves to a 4-0 record at the Prarie State College tournament. Gonzales had a total of 38 kills, 34 digs and five blocks respectively. She also recorded a team-high 11 kills in a loss to Rock Valley. She has 319 kills on the year for the Lady Wolves, who have won five of their last six matches.

Lizette Gonzalez

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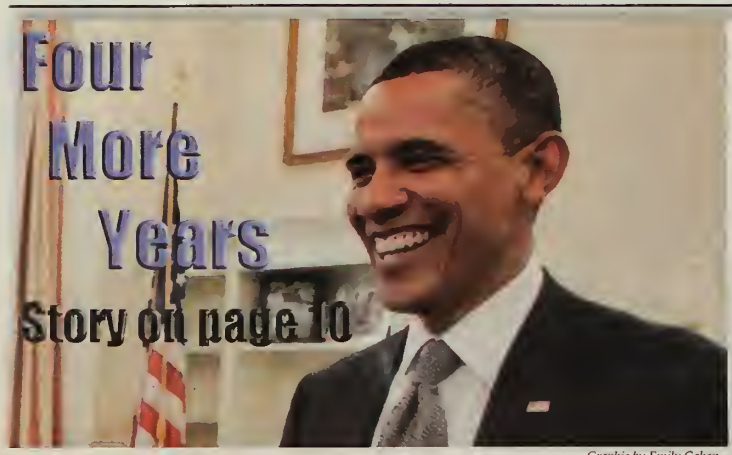
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012 VOLUME 85 ISSUE 4



Graphic by Emily Galan

JJC welcomes two new Vice Presidents

Yolanda Isaacs and Judy Mitchell dedicated to helping students

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

This year, JJC has welcomed two new Vice Presidents as they both work to help make the college and its students successful.

Dr. Yolanda Isaacs is the new Vice President of Student Development and Dr. Judy Mitchell, who has been employed with JJC since 1996, was recently named the Vice President of Administrative Services. Throughout the semester, both of them have been working hard to better the college in their new roles.

Isaacs has been working in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team to develop and implement programs, services and resources to promote student development, learning and success. She also oversees a multitude of different services including Admissions, Veteran's Services, Counseling and Advising, Career Services, Multicultural Student Affairs, the Office of Student Activities and athletics.

With all this responsibility, Isaacs has found enjoyment in her work.

"The most rewarding aspect of my role is serving as a student advocate," said Isaacs. "In the role of Vice President of Student Development, I have the opportunity to ensure that the students' voices are heard as decisions are being made."

She continued by saying, "I plan to go above and beyond the expectation of my peers and students by listening to students and their concerns and needs, remaining up-to-date regarding the trends that impact student success."

The Blazer asked Isaacs about her impression of JJC as a new hire.

"My first impression of Joliet Junior College is the significant growth in facilities the college has experienced to support student learning. As a student development professional with a background in residence life, I am intrigued by the campus environment for learners," responded Isaacs. "I continue to be impressed with the quality of teaching instruction and exceptional student services, coupled with state-of-the art facilities that contribute to a prolific learning environment. When a college is able to provide students a welcoming environment with state-of-the art facilities, students are inspired to attend class and participate in extracurricular activities."

When asked what makes this college unique she said, "As the first public college, JJC has a historical richness that contributes to the uniqueness of the institution. No other community college has the significant title of being the first community college. As we continue to provide educational opportunities for students to contribute to the upward mobility of society, we must take pride in knowing that we work for an institution with historical meaning."

Isaacs has many plans for the college and is already encouraged by what the college has to offer. "Students-as you continue your educational journey at the college, I encourage you to consider us, the Student Development team, as your partner for success. Educate yourself about the

See VPs, page 11

Judy Mitchell

Yolanda Isaacs

College honors Vets

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

JJC honored veterans and active duty troops with a ceremony from noon-1 p.m. on Nov. 9 by the veteran's memorial on the main campus bridge. The ceremony began with Vice President of Academic Affairs Valerie Roberson welcoming the veterans to the campus.

The Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Memorial Squad was in attendance and performed the posting of the colors. There was a variety of music used throughout the ceremony, including bagpipes for the posting and retirement of the colors.

Professor Phil Spencer and select members of his choirs not only led the National Anthem as is traditionally sung, but also performed an additional verse that is included in the four-verse anthem.

The entire piece as written by Francis Scott Key was provided on the reverse side of the program so the audience could join the choir.

Cmdr. Cecilia Seabrook of the Memorial Squad then led a flag folding demonstration. The flag was folded by her squad with all due respect as she educated the audience about the significance of each fold and the symbolism that surrounds the ceremony.

Following the demonstration, "Echo Taps" could be heard throughout the school as trumpets sounded out a somber variation of one of the most iconic songs used to remember fallen heroes. One trumpet would play a piece of the melody, and then another would echo down the hall in response. Following this, veterans in attendance were treated a more joyous medley of various music composed for the armed forces.

"The Armed Forces Medley" was performed by G. Richard

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EDITORIAL

Practicing zen to decrease stress

Americans are working harder and putting in more hours than ever. According to ABC News, "Americans work more than anyone in the industrialized world. More than the English, more than the French, way more than the Germans or Norwegians. Even, recently, more than the Japanese."

It's likely you've felt the grind, perhaps juggling attending classes while working at a full-time or part-time job among other obligations. If you're wondering why you're still not getting ahead, the Blazer assures you that it's not your fault.

Wages have deteriorated, especially since the Great Recession sent many households into panic with the housing bubble financed with credit. To pay off debt and support their families, many have taken on more hours at work to make up for inflation. But keeping your head above water can be a stressful and risky task for some.

Stress-related illnesses and disorders have been on the rise as of late, leading to increasing dissatisfaction within the quality of life Americans experience. Even people seemingly blessed with success at the upper echelon of society are stepping down from their high authority positions with recreation time and personal ties in mind.

Enter the Slow Movement, an initiative with origins in Europe. Dispelling the myth that experiencing life at a snail's pace is pure laziness, a quick Google search of the Slow Movement will reveal thousands of websites dedicated to everything from sustainable and thoughtful architecture, food, medicine and fashion.

The basic idea of the movement relates to the notion of downshifting and living consciously with the environment in mind. One "slow" website, Create the Good Life, states the Slow Movement "emerged as an effort to counteract the fast-paced, commodity-focused, unbalanced and impersonal nature of much of modern human culture."

A slow meal might involve using fresh ingredients to prepare an exotic dish for family and friends and slow relationships are the exact opposite of speed dating.

One aspect of slow living is to cut out unnecessary clutter and expense in your life, which is a good idea no matter how deep into the daily grind you are.

If you feel like you just can't get ahead, take a look at your expenses. Are you paying a premium for cable or your cell phone service? Look into downgrading add-ons that you don't use continually or cut the cost entirely.

You don't have to live in a box to be economical. Something as simple as switching to a pay-as-you-go phone or opting to buy used books instead of new will help you take some financial burden off your shoulders. It's a good start.

Good things do come to those who wait. If life is starting to get ahead of you, simply cut out the unnecessary.

When you find you start to need less to be happy, your time spent toiling so you can buy more things decreases. Remember, the turtle did beat the hare after all.

Black Friday: a day for 'zombie' shoppers

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Here we go again. Not many events in our lives instill a frenzied, comatose place in our being quite like Black Friday. Every year, masses of people are reduced to their most primal states, trampling each other and throwing punches over minimally reduced items.

I remember gaping in a distraught awe at last year's turmoil over waffle makers and a spattering of violence at Wal-Marts across the country. The amount of hype was disproportionate to the deals being sought after. The trauma of being pinned in in the middle an unpredictable crowd became the priceless final straw for some.

It's ironic that this consumer madness takes place immediately after Thanksgiving, a time where family ties and good food are at the forefront over gadgets for once. While this is a message that has been touted by activists and frugal souls for years, I will preach the concept home again. You are above this superficial commercial hysteria.

Yes, as a typical American you have the choice to set your priorities straight this holiday season and bypass the rush for some well-deserved sleep. This is my idealistic recommendation for everyone this Thanksgiving, but of course many average Americans who work in retail don't have the option to enjoy a few days off.

Many large retailers scheduled employees for grueling and unfair hours last year as they pushed back Black Friday sale times to maximize profits. Target's midnight opening received cries of protest from employees, even prompting a petition that stated the early opening interfered with family get-togethers. Expect more of the same disrespect this time around as well.

You should be aware that shopping during Black Friday might be an unintentional declaration about what matters to you. Voting with your wallet not only refers to the types of products you buy, but also what you don't buy and the times you answer the siren song of the mega sale.

If you do decide to commit an act of bravery and venture outside on Black Friday to do some shopping, I won't condemn you unless you suddenly turn into a zombie with the lure of low prices. Be mindful of the personal space of others, and if you can't peacefully move in front of the crowd, don't.

Don't make a scene or regress into childhood because you weren't able to snag a $12 video game. People will appreciate your tolerance and will be less likely to react to you in a competitive and rash way.

Personally, I will be participating in Buy Nothing Day, an Adbusters-sponsored event where activists protest at various big box stores across the country, doing everything from cutting up credit cards to walking around Wal-Mart without buying anything.

Protesting on Black Friday may seem glamorous or bothersome to some, but for people like me these acts reinforce the idea that there are greater values to be sought after than owning the best and latest of an object.

While it's not horrible to own things like iPhones and laptops, it doesn't take much prompting before events like Black Friday become a black hole.

BLAZER STAFF

Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Michael Schuller
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Miller
Production Manager

Lea Perez
Assistant Production Manager

Tammy Slakke
Sports Editor

Sarah Lake
Advertisement Manager

Renee Ranzone
Photo Editor

Staff Writers:
Eric Mcewen, Kelsi Bertheaume, Lorenzo Jackson, Autumn Pulvermocher, Eric Monohon, Victoria Shiner, April Musilek Ashley Murray, Adriano Vazquez, Bridget Drury

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazerma9@jc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Just roll with it

BY AUTUMN PULVERMACHER
Staff Writer

Do you ever think about life changes? It's funny how you never really think about circumstances changing until they suddenly can (or most often do). We go about our lives every day expecting mostly the same outcome as the day before-same old, same old. And there's comfort and stability in that; we humans need this to feel secure.

It's so easy to get stuck in a secure zone or rut that we don't see possible changes coming down the track. For example, I've lived by myself for years, and my significant other is about to move in with me and my pets.

It's exciting and scary at the same time (like starting school again). But change is never easy, is it? Starting a new phase of life (like cohabitation, college or a job) is exhilarating and challenging. It forces us out of our comfort zones and into the land of the new.

What's interesting about this is that when you take on a new challenge or adventure you feel so unsure yet stimulated. On the flip side, sometimes these changes can be heartbreaking, terrifying and sad (deaths, breakups or financial woes).

The balance of life is so precarious. But you know what? I think it takes both of these types of changes to make a well-rounded and resilient person. After all, life definitely isn't for the weak or faint of heart.

The yin and yang, the good and the bad, the easy and the difficult all make us who we are and how we deal with our lives and their outcomes. Like Steve Winwood sang, "When life is too much, roll with it baby."

So whatever you're facing today, roll with whatever the day brings (good or bad). As for me, I'm going to try to learn to share possession of the remote.

Thanksgiving: time for family

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Staff Writer

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, families draw near and dear to us. Ironically, life as a student takes us away from being with our family. Being with family during the holiday season is often the most enjoyable time for a student.

This holiday, to me, is not only a day for big feasts and football, but it's also a time to relax and reboot. It's a chance to catch up on work for the semester if need be.

Above all, spending time with your family is what I believe the holiday is all about. For example, I really did enjoy playing backyard football as a family game. This tradition, however, was cut short a few years ago because a family member passed away due to a heart attack.

Coincidentally, at the same time my mom was going through her breast cancer radiation treatments. Was this the moment where my perspective on family changed? No, it was not.

My view on my family remains the same to this very day. That being said, my appreciation of spending time with them has definitely changed for the better.

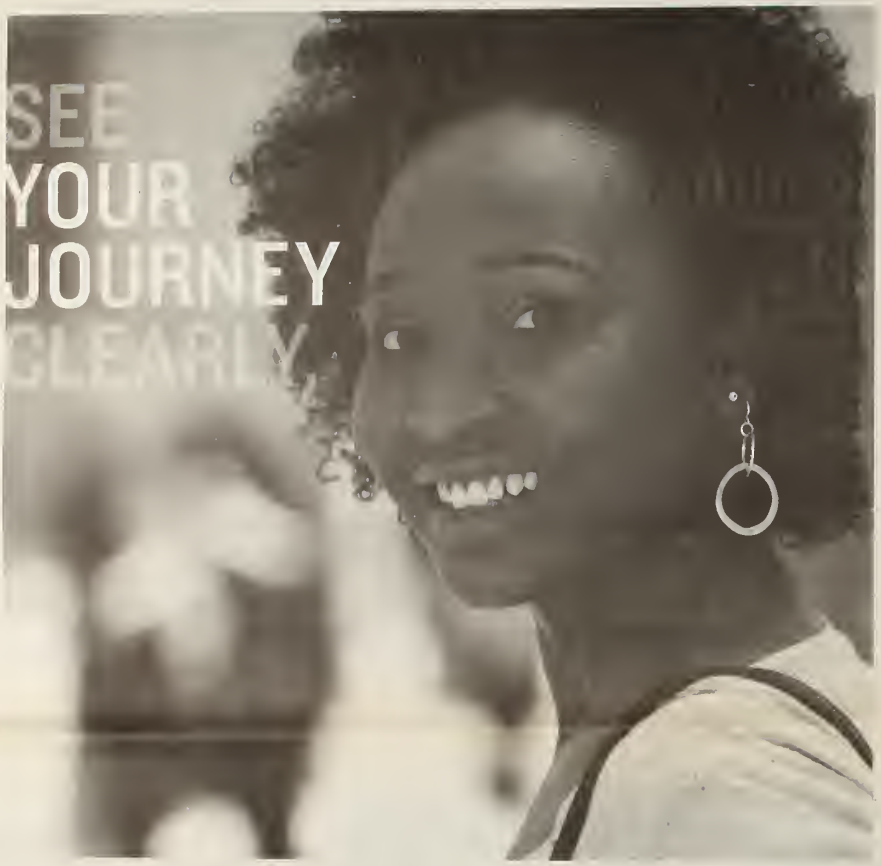
"Above all, spending time with your family is what I believe the holiday is all about"

Everybody's favorite family time is always during the meal. Who has experienced the feeling of being tired after eating a Thanksgiving lunch or dinner? I know I have. Yet, its not the turkey to blame. The amino acid inside is called tryptophan. Tryptophan is used to make people drowsy. More often than not, people do not eat enough turkey on an empty stomach to feel the full effects of tryptophan. It is usually a combination of foods together that cause the metabolism to slow down due to the large amount consumed versus a regular meal.

Ultimately, family is family, an old cliche that only gets truer every day. Unfortunately, you only get one, and some people are robbed of the chance. Enjoy your family. Spend time with them and,most importantly, enjoy your break.

Newspaper Correction

In the October 24 issue of the Blazer, it was published that Kelsi Bethahume had written "JJC art gallery grand opening" when it was in fact Kristi Bedolla who had written the artical. The Blazer apologizes for this misprint.



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Students aim for further drug reform

By Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

With medical marijuana available in 18 states and Colorado and Washington ending cannabis prohibition, the drug war is becoming a questionable issue in the minds of many Americans. Despite change on the state level, however, federal law still lists marijuana as a Schedule I drug, meaning it is categorized as highly dangerous.

According to the Chicago Sun Times, members of the Chicago City Council "voted 43 to 3 to allow city police the discretion of citing, rather than arresting, those found in the possession of 15 grams of marijuana or less (about one-half ounce) on their person" in June this year.

As Illinois is increasingly responding positively to medical marijuana use, HB 30, a bill proposing cannabis use for the disabled and terminally ill, is pending in the House of Representatives.

Students are becoming more involved in drug policy overhauls, with Students for Sensible Drug Policy being an organized force on campuses nationwide. Established in 1998, Illinois has seven college chapters of SSDP, including one at JJC.

"I try to be realistic about what we hope to achieve. The most important aspect of a group like this is simply spreading awareness about outdated and ineffective drug laws and how they actually harm us rather than help us," said Evan Borkstrom, an active member in SSDP's JJC chapter. "There are still, rather unfortunately, a great deal of people who think that marijuana is addictive, that it is a gateway drug or that it kills brain cells. These claims are simply false and are nothing more than myths that have been perpetuated by drug war propaganda."

Borkstrom expressed that SSDP does campus education events and lobbies Congress in order to bring drug use out from the underground and treat it as a personal health issue rather than a criminal one.

"I've never understood the logic in taking people who have never committed a violent crime against anybody, locking them up in a federal prison for drug use and putting them into a deeply flawed system where they are more likely to come out as violent criminals," Borkstrom said. "The most sensible approach is to look at drug use as a social, medical issue rather than an issue of criminal justice."

SSDP highlights many inconsistencies in US drug law. With alcohol and cigarettes contributing to thousands of deaths each year, Borkstrom thought it was unreasonable that cannabis, a substance that cannot be connected to a single death and has been proven to have therapeutic properties, is regarded as dangerous.

"As far as how to regulate it, let's treat it just the way we treat alcohol. It will never be legal for children to smoke it; it will never be legal to drive while intoxicated. Beyond that, let's legalize it, regulate it and benefit more people by doing so," said Borkstrom.

Students interested in joining upcoming events and actions can email the SSDP JJC cha ssdpjjc@gmail.com or j group's Facebook page (S for Sensible Drug Policy Junior College Chapter).

JJC raises alcohol awareness for student

By Ashley Murray
Staff Writer

Last month's Alcohol Awareness Week event revealed that 83.3 percent of JJC students either choose to drink responsibly or not at all, and 16.7 percent of students experience problems after drinking alcohol.

Mission Improv: A Shot of Reality took place to "bring awareness to college students about excessive alcohol use and misuse," said Amy Sims, coordinator of student activities, when asked about the aim of Alcohol Awareness Week.

Back for another year on Oct. 24, Mission Improv was a comedy act put on for students to show them how drinking can affect their lives. Students and faculty may have heard some laughing, and maybe even clapping during the presentation.

The educational event featured a game show. Students were asked questions about how alcohol affects the heart, liver and brain. Each volunteer won a gift card to the JJC bookstore.

"I learned some things about alcohol that I did not know. This show has really grabbed my attention," said Fosette Anderson, one of the gift card winners. Sims also did a segment where she asked students questions about alcohol after spinning a wheel.

Alcohol can have many damaging effects on the brain.

According to the Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention, 1,700 college students die from alcohol-related causes each year, and 1,300 of these deaths involve drinking and driving.

More than 2.8 million college students drive while under the influence of alcohol. The minimum limit for alcohol drinking in Illinois is 0.8. College students were advised that they needed to be prepared to make healthy choices when it co drinking alcohol.

The awareness event re students to never drive while intoxicated and to n any friends drive while un influence. Some strategi were suggested involved a to call a drunk friend a ta Mission Improv prese finally ended with the message that even though the legal age to drink, drink responsibly.

Follow the fellowship, Christian styl

By Andrew McArthur
Staff Writer

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship USA is a chartered interdenominational mission group with a rich tradition of campus witnesses, thoughtful discipleship and a concern for world missions.

Intervarsity is an officially chartered member of JJC's Collegiate Club Council. The fellowship serves more than 35,000 students and faculty on more than 560 college and university campuses nationwide.

"There have been Christian students meeting as a group at Joliet Junior College for many years," said Geoffrey White, campus advisor for the group.

In the 1992 fall and spring semesters, the group decided to look into become affiliated with a national group of Christian students. That is when they decided to become a chapter of the national student group.

Intervarsity, like the other clubs associated with the club counsel on campus, receives funding through student activity fees and fundraising.

"Our ministry is designed to help students develop as Christian leaders and have an influence on the campus," said Phil Nordquist, Intervarsity staff leader.

The ministry intends to help students develop as Christian leaders and to have an influence on the campus through charity work. The intervarsity website says its purpose is to establish communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as a savior.

One member of Intervarsity, Samantha Merkle, said, "What got me coming back to the group was the fact that it wasn't the quiet religious group that sits in the corner of the cafeteria reading their Bibles to themselves. It was such a diverse group that has great discussion and Bible studies together."

Many activities like large group games, retreats and conferences to welcome new people are frequent within the group. The club also has Bible studies as a primary place of learning and spiritual growth.

"When I was in college I was part of Intervarsity. It is how my faith became more real to me," Nordquist said.

"Our main goal is to reach the entire campus; of course not everyone is going to agree with what we do or what we believe in," Merkle added.

Intervarsity has daily meetings in order to develop a positive and encouraging community on campus. Meetings consist of prayer, study of Biblical scripture, team building and worship through music.

Large group meetings are held Thursday at 2 p.m. at main campus on the South Bridge. Prayer meetings are Monday through Thursday at 11 a.m. in the cafeteria marked by a green tablecloth.

"Every day more people are becoming interested, even those students who want nothing to do with us," said Merkle

The group is continu grow and there are more studies and activities go each semester.

"We have a great relat with many clubs on ca said Nordquist. "We are o all students to join."

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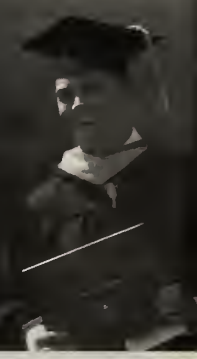

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News Briefs

Taming of the Shrew

The JJC Fine Arts Department Theatre will present The Taming of The Shrew by William Shakespeare on Nov. 15 –17 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 17-18 at 2 p.m.

Directed by Clay Kirkland, the productions will be performed in the Fine Arts Theatre located in K building on the college's Main Campus at 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet.

In addition to its regular appearance on the stage, The Taming of the Shrew has also inspired opera, musical theatre (Cole Porter's Kiss Me, Kate) and film (10 Things I Hate About You). As noted by the Fine Arts Department, the play often evokes debate in regards to its "misogynistic tone as it explores the "tumultuous" relationship between Katherina and Petruchio's.

Ticket prices are $8 for the public and $5 for seniors, with additional discounts available for JJC faculty, staff and all students.

To order tickets call the box office at 815-280-2200. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are now being accepted.

As part of the college's ongoing community service project, audience members are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the production where they may be exchanged for items at the concession table. All contributions will be donated to area shelters.

Thanksgiving Buffet

A Thanksgiving Buffet will be served by the JJC Food Services in the Campus Center Lower Level on Nov. 15 at 11 a.m.

The buffet will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will cost $10 per person.

The menu includes many traditional holiday dishes, including turkey and dressings, sweet potato casserole, pumpkin and pecan pie, squash soup and coffee and tea.

For reservations call 815-280-2832.

Reserved Parking and Shuttle Service is being provided from South Parking Lot #1 (Follow the Signs).

The event is being held in conjunction with the books store's "Holiday Hapenings!" celebration.

Holiday Happenings 2012

The JJC Bookstore will hold its annual "Holiday Happenings" on Nov. 15 beginning at 11 a.m.

The event will take place the same day as the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. A free shuttle bus service will be available from South Lot No. 1. The event will include items for sale, food and dip samples from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and holiday gift baskets for sale.

JJC Area High School Art Exhibition

Artwork from area high school students will be on display at the Laura Sprague Gallery on JJC's main campus from Nov. 13-Dec. 7. The art gallery is located in in J-1004.

Selections for this exhibition are made by high school art instructors and awards are distributed at the discretion of the Joliet Junior College studio art faculty.

An evening awards ceremony, reception and visual arts open house will be held in conjunction with this exhibition on November 29.

2012 Light Up The Holiday

Brunch With Santa Claus The JJC Renaissance Center will host "Food and Fun" prior to the 15th Annual Light Up The Holidays Festival and Parade on Nov. 23. The brunch is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The "Brunch with Santa" will feature favorite foods of both adults and children. Joliet Park District will also have a variety of activities for the children to enjoy.

Authors search for the 'write' inspiration

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The end of the year may herald sighs of exhaustion for some. But for certain imaginative types, this season signals a fresh start on creative projects and pursuits. Writers are bursting out of the woodwork with a pen, typewriter or keyboard at hand.

In what is presented as "thirty days and nights of literary abandon," National Novel Writing Month (or NaNoWriMo) offers novice authors the chance to plunge into completing the novel they've been agonizing about writing with other novelists from around the world.

The goal is to finish a 50,000-word novel before November ends. The NaNoWriMo web site, sponsored by a nonprofit organization called The Office of Letters and Light, allows authors to sign up to track their progress, share plot developments, characters and cheer each other on.

The dedication required is vigorous, with only a fraction of those set out for novelist status ever reaching the finish line.

"In 2011, we had 256,618 participants and 36,843 of them crossed the 50K finish line by the midnight deadline," the official website stated. With the assistance of caffeine and other writing buddies, some authors have offered their own tips when it comes to keeping up with a consistent word count.

One common word of advice was to never re-read progress and save the editing process until after the novel is completed. NaNoWriMo is an intense, condensed way for young writers to stop procrastinating and perhaps get published. Several NaNoWriMo writers have achieved their goals as published authors, with Sara Gruen, author of "Water for Elephants," as a notable participant.

Prior to November, JJC hosted its own National Day on Writing on Oct. 16. Students participated in a variety of contests, including haiku, magazine cut-up poetry and a talk like Shakespeare contest where students translated popular lyrics into old English.

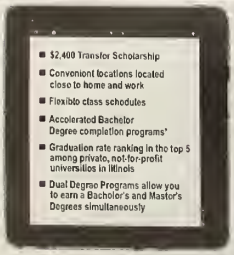
"We may have a handful of fantastic writers who attend the events regularly, but writers tend to feed off each other, evolving and becoming better writers because they learn from their peers," Kara Ponce said when asked about JJC's writing-related events. Ponce is a writer and a part of the editorial board for JJC's creative arts publication, Wordcatcher.

If the commitment of NaNoWriMo is too much for some writers, students can still enjoy the opportunity to present poetry and short stories at the Wordcatcher café on Nov. 27 at 9:30 a.m and show off their abilities as wordsmiths.

Photo by Emily Gahan

JJC student Britany Beukema buckles down with a ball point pen wile competing in a National Day on Writing contest.

Let's get down to business.



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Have a Nose for News?

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Students cook to compete

By Elroy Davila
Staff Writer

In a profession that features glassware and silverware, it is the hardware from JJC's Competitive Cooking Club that has everyone talking.

The club, which is led by Chef Kyle Richardson, brought home a first-place title and a gold medal from the state competition in March. The Hot Plates team defeated the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School for the eighth straight year to earn the title of the ACF Top Culinary School Team.

The team advanced to the regional competition in Detroit in April, where they finished fourth. In 2011, the team won the national competition, an impressive feat considering JJC's team was competing against the country's top college culinary programs and culinary institutes.

Richardson credits the hard work of the team members as the reason for their success.

"We have a great diverse student base from blue-collar families with a great work ethic," he said. "This is why we've been so successful," he said.

Currently, the club has 14 to 25 members. The Hot Plates Team, or "the core team," as Richardson refers to them, meets twice weekly to practice and stay sharp. The intensity of the competitions requires team members to meet up to four times per week ahead of upcoming contests.

The competitions the team participates in test a variety of skills. "It's like a culinary relay," Richardson said.

Challenges test not only the team's cooking ability, but also skills such as butchery, precision cutting, pastry-making, timing and plating.

The club as a whole meets once per month. Here, club members participate in fun activities such as recipe competitions and chili cook-offs. The cook-offs require team members to create their own batch of chili, which they bring in for tasting and judging by a blind panel of judges.

Looking ahead, the club will be cooking for the annual MadriGala Feast on Saturday, Dec. 8. The MadriGala is a cooperative effort that also includes the Fine Arts Department and features the JJC Chamber Singers and Brass Ensemble.

The Competitive Cooking Club is open to any current student at JJC. Tryouts for the Hot Plates Team are held separately, and the team often takes on apprentices. Any student who is interested in joining the club or wants more information is encouraged to contact Richardson via email at krichard@jjc.edu or by phone at (815) 280-2447.

Photo by Emily Gahan
Andrew Kujawa prepares a chicken wrap for the Chef's Table

Automotive

Free car checks offere

By Lorenzo Jackson
Staff Writer

Automotive faculty and students at JJC held a free and open car check and maintenance for the public. It marked the second time the JJC faculty and students offered a free car check and maintenance program at the school's new automotive shop.

The Car Care Council and JJC Automotive Department hold this event to show their appreciation for the community, which funded their new shop through a 2008 referendum. The free inspection and maintenance they do for the winter is a big "thank you" to everyone who supported them. Curt Ward, JJC automotive department faculty member, said they hope to make the event yearly.

No appointments were necessary for the Nov. 3 event, and the turnout was larger than last year's, bringing in 35 to 40 cars. According to Ward, the number of cars was plenty to keep the 15 student volunteers busy from 9 a.m. to noon.

The good turnout was aided by Discover JJC, held on the same day. The event is held each semester to introduce the college to prospective high school students. It was also promoted by a small article on the school's website, some press coverage and the support of members automotive department.

"It was a good respon Ward, who helped to s the event. "We will contin it. It was so good a lady her husband's car too."

The process typically to 30 minutes. The stud faculty technicians chec wipers, belts and hose co tires and anti-freeze. Wit and potential snow and the way, these car che designed to ensure the s the driver and the car d winter time.

"Tires lose one PSI per square inch, the comm of measurement for press every 10 degrees," Wa explaining how the cold affects the pressure of t tires.

The shop does n anything during the ev the technicians offer sug about possible steps pe take to prepare their cars coming season.

All the work was don students, with no help f advisers. In addition to the community, it also s an educational experie the automotive studen volunteered.

"We didn't touch a but provided answers a guidance," Ward said.

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Safe Zone defies 'normal'

Photo by Emily Gahan

Tim'm West explains to Safe Zone allies how "the norm" of society oppresses the differences betweem people.

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

JJC's Safe Zone program provides an accepting campus environment for GLBTQ students and faculty by promoting open discussion about a wide spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities. Safe Zones are supported by student and faculty allies, individuals who have stepped forward to advocate for accepting and positive attitudes about gender and sexual diversity.

Safe Zone allies host educational events to highlight the issues that affect GLBTQ people. One concept many gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual men and women contend with on a daily basis is that of the premise heteronormativity.

"I think it's important to talk about heteronormativity because, in essence, it's that assumption that everyone is straight until they tell you otherwise, as opposed to not making any assumptions about anyone's orientation and allowing them to reveal themselves," said Tim'm T. West during a Safe Zone ally training presentation on Nov. 5.

West is a rapper, presenter, poet and activist who works as an associate director of youth programs at Center on Halsted, a GLBTQ social service agency in Chicago. While growing up in rural Arkansas in a single parent household, West was an athlete and excelled academically. However, his attraction to the same sex was met with disproving messages in his church and community.

"You start to learn that those things that feel very natural for you are maybe not as natural as you think. You start to self-doubt and question," said West about his experiences as a gay child living in a culture that defines strict standards for male and female roles. While discussing stereotyping and assumptions, West warned about the downfalls of searching for what is considered to be normal.

"What's dangerous about the norm is that it flattens out differences," West said. "But, people are inherently different. What heteronormativity does is try to create a normalcy that doesn't really exist."

West also discussed straight privilege, mentioning that straight couples don't have to be as careful about how they display affection in public. West said that simply holding hands with his partner in some areas may pose a danger for them.

However, the good news is that today's society is much more accepting of alternative sexualities. West noted that in the 80's and 90's "there was no Ellen."

Gender expression and identity is varied, according to West.

"We deal with an LGBT population that's very fluid. They see gender as very fluid and they see sexuality as very fluid. One day Christian is Christian, and another day Christian is Gia."

After a performance by singer and songwriter, Lea, West left with a message of tolerance and benevolence.

The next GLBTQ event, sponsored by GLOW, will be the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 19 at 6 p.m.

Mind reader returns and astounds many

BY KRISTI BEDOLLA
Staff Writer

On Oct. 6, mind reader Chris Carter performed on the JJC bridge and impressed students with his mind reading abilities, shocking students and staff. Carter has been to JJC many times, and each during each visit he manages to leave the audience asking, "How did he do that?"

Since the age of eight, Carter became interested in extrasensory perception while watching a poker game with his uncle. The players broadcast their thoughts and used body language with their cards, and the action amazed him.

That interest grew when he learned hypnotism in a psychology class and attended a lecture that left him craving for more. He pursued psychology and theater. With those skills, he threw together a show that is fast paced, funny and mentally thrilling.

He has made television appearances and numerous shows for corporations such as Harley Davidson and Sprint PCS. Campus Activities Magazine named him the Performing Arts Entertainer of the Year in 2005.

In the Nov. 6 show, Carter asked the audience to write facts about themselves on a notecard, including a number or set of numbers of any kind and a question they would like answered about the future.

The items written down could be factual or random. Once the audience was finished, Carter sent a student to collect them and place them on a tray underneath his hand. The catch was that he would duet tape two coins onto his eyes, add more duet tape to eliminate any openings, add a black blindfold and even more duet tape to secure the blindfold.

It was evident that he could not see through the numerous pieces of tape and the cotton blindfold. Once everything was in place, Carter then grabbed notecards and began to ask a series of questions to the audience, revealing their names and their answers, which shocked the students. Every notecard picked was different and Carter's conclusions were spot on. Students thoroughly enjoyed the show and some felt as if their minds were open for everyone to read.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Chris Carter shocks students as he demonstrates his abilities.

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Otello broadcasts to local theater

By Mike Schuller
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Going to see the Opera live is considered by many as a once in a lifetime experience. For most, it takes a lot of travel, dressing up and effort to be a part of the experience.

Now, thanks to Fathom Events audiences can enjoy a live high definition Opera experience by satellite from a theater much closer to home. On Oct 27 the Metropolitan Opera presented Verdi's Otello, starring Johan Botha as Otello and Renée Fleming as Desdemona and was broadcasted by satellite directly to the Cinemark Louis Joliet Mall.

The performance was about three and a half hours long with an intermission in the middle. Throughout the performance the audience experiences scenes of love, deceit, revenge, and evil plots.

This opera was in Italian, as originally written, but those who enjoy the performance through Fathom Events gain the luxury of subtitles on the lower part of the movie screen. This is a great addition that really lets people get into the performance without having to read the synopsis beforehand to be able to follow the story.

The performance itself was phenomenal. It told a dramatic story that gives stiff competition to any movie that is trying to invoke the same feelings. Each character was given life by a highly prepared cast of actors and singers.

The music was performed beautifully, and was one of the most amazing encounters I've had with a live performance. In fact, everything was done so well, the thought of it being live never really crossed the mind.

The only time you were drawn away from the performance was the intermission where you had a chance, that the traditional viewing audience didn't have, to hear interviews with the performers and be able to witness them out of character.

There were also various other interviews including composers, important stage management and sneak previews of coming shows. While many will find this experience more like a musical then a movie, Otello really draws you into the story in a way very similar to a really good movie.

Otello is based on the Shakespearean as is many of the Opera being performed this season. This makes the experience not only a viable option for those interested in easily experiencing great musical works, but literary ones as well.

In addition to being able to experience such an extravagant event from the comfort of local movie theaters, most of them offer student pricing just be sure to bring a valid form of student identification.

There is a lot to take advantage of through the Fathom Events presentation of the Metropolitan Opera, you can expand your musical horizons, learn more about great works of literature through live performance and so much more with ease.

If you're interested in seeing Otello, there will be an encore performance Nov. 14 and another Shakespearean work titled The Tempest by Adès premiering on Nov 10 and an encore performance on Nov 28.

Photo's courtesy of: Ken Howard/Metropolitan Opera

Johan Botha as the title character and Renée Fleming as Desdemona.

Johan Botha as the title character and Falk Struckmann as Iago in Verdi's "Otello."

A scene from Verdi's "Otello" with Michael Fabiano (left) as Cassio, Falk Struckmann (center) as Iago, and Johan Botha as the title character.

Johan Botha as the title character and Renée Fleming as Desdemona in Verdi's "Otello."

Obama returns to oval office

Defeats Gov. Mitt Romney in tight race for the White House

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

America has made a presidential decision once again. The election ushered in an historic moment in more ways than one. Obama has secured himself another four years in the White House as some sigh in relief and others cringe. In what was considered to be a close election, voting results were down to the wire, especially in Florida where Obama was leading with a less than one percent margin.

Despite some projections to the contrary, Obama prevailed in the swing states of Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Iowa, Nevada and Colorado. Romney only managed to lead in the contested states of North Carolina.

According to the Huffington Post, minority, women and youth voters overwhelmingly supported Obama. The Huffington Post poll revealed that 60 percent of voters ages 18 to 24 consistently went with Obama, while over 80 percent of African Americans and 65 percent of Latinos were voting blue.

These groups combined created the push necessary for Obama's victory. This left Obama with 332 electoral votes, while Romney only gathered 206. Obama also won the popular vote at 50.5 percent to 47.9 percent.

Other factors that played into the results of the election were controversies within the Republican Party throughout the election year. Rep. Todd Akin of Missouri left the country wary of the GOP's agenda after his comments about rape.

"Akin said in a television interview that he believed that in cases of 'legitimate rape' women didn't get pregnant because their bodies had the capability to 'shut that whole thing down'," U.S. News and World Report stated as one reason the GOP began to not look so promising. Senate candidate Richard Mourdock added fuel to the fire when he said that pregnancies due to rape were "God's will."

Middle class families also expressed they could relate to Obama better when a Washington Post/ABC News poll showed that 49 percent of respondents thought that Obama understood the problems they face, versus 37 percent for Romney.

The Democrat camp used the image of Romney as the heartless "rich white guy" to appeal to the average American. This might have been telling for some after the Huffington Post reported that Romney told Jodie Chiarello, who lost her home during Hurricane Isaac, to "go home and call 211."

Romney's perceived flip-flop on policies also attracted ridicule in the media. This reputation even inspired a website called RoboRomney, where the former candidate "agrees with you" on conservative, moderate and liberal viewpoints. This inconsistency bothered some, while others claimed that this made Romney a more versatile contender.

At the Senate level, Democrats once again comprised the majority with 53 senatorial seats claimed. Notably, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin became the first openly lesbian senator.

Republicans once again took control of the House of Representatives with 233 seats. However, the Illinois 11th Congressional District added a Democrat to the House with the election of physicist Bill Foster.

Among the excitement of the elections, Americans expressed a defiance to the Christian right by defending same-sex marriage in Washington, Maryland, Maine and Minnesota. Marijuana was legalized for recreational use in Colorado and Washington, but the two states are still waiting to see how the federal government responds.

This moment reflects a cultural shift in the U.S. Disheartened by the traditional preachings of conservative evangelicals, Americans are starting to strive for change in a new direction. With younger generations increasingly liberal, it may be a matter of out with the old and in with the new.

While some JJC students seemed indifferent to the elections, others had strong views.

"Romney wanted to get rid of financial aid and Pell Grants. A lot of college kids can't afford that. They might be able to pay half of it, but everyone needs a little help and not everyone can get a loan," said student Alisa Ray on why she supported Obama. Another student piped in that she was happy gay marriage was legalized in other states. However, not everyone was content with the outcome of the election.

"They just focused on him being African American. They just focused on his skin color. I don't think a president should be in office for that reason. I don't think people should have voted for him for that reason," one student said after saying that Americans zeroed in on Obama's race while letting his stances on the economy slide into the background.

"I voted for Romney because my family is in the upper brackets. I don't mind paying taxes to help other people out. That I can completely understand from Obama's view. I don't mind helping out, but there comes a point we have to start fending for ourselves and make sure we have what need before we take that next step," said a Republican student.

All and all, Obama faces a slowly recovering economy as he continues as president. His next steps will determine how the country reacts and moves forward.

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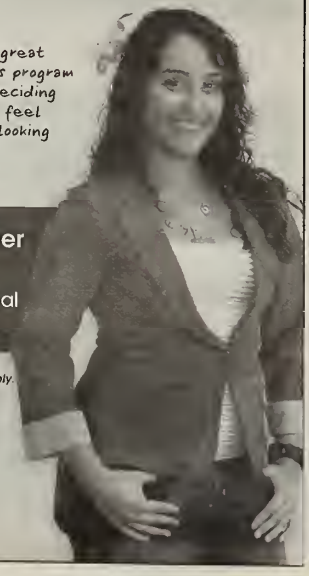
—Daniella Hernandez, emergency medical services major from Melrose Park, Illinois



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Students show their stuff at recital

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On Oct 31, students enrolled in various applied music courses took part in one of the most diverse student recitals to date.

The audience enjoyed everything from classical music, to folk songs and in one instance there was even a beautifully composed piece from the popular video game Final Fantasy X titled Back to Zanarkand composed by Nobuo Uematsu performed on guitar.

This event was held in the theatre from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and featured around a dozen performers including pianists, vocalists, guitarists and more.

Overall, the performances were very well done and each student definitely put a large amount of effort behind their performances.

Backstage during the performance, each performer could be found eagerly preparing for their turn in the spotlight and when they returned they always had a smile on their face.

The next student recital is scheduled for Nov 28 at 11 a.m. and the Fine Arts Department and the student performers all encourage anyone who would like to attend to do so.

Also, don't forget to check the Fine Arts calendar for upcoming ensemble concerts coming in December.

VPs from page 1

resources and services that are available to you to ensure that you are on the correct path for success," said Isaacs as a final note to students. "As a member of the JJC community, you have the opportunity to truly make a difference in your life through the reward of attaining a degree, certificate, and workforce knowledge. Stay focused on your journey, as your journey will lead to greater success and fulfillment in your life."

This semester, Isaacs has been responsible for enhancing online communication with e-newsletters regarding support services, greater partnerships with students to understand trends that impact student success, progress towards global education and strengthened support for specific student groups such as veterans and adult students to ensure their success as well.

Isaacs is especially thankful for the ability to attend various meetings that address the concerns of students, as well as one-on-one meetings to hear what they have to say.

Mitchell serves as the chief financial officer and treasurer of the college. She is responsible for much of the financial aspects of the college, such as leading the functions of facilities and campus safety. Mitchell also helps manage all college businesses, such as food services, the book store, the renaissance center and the early childhood center. Additionally, she manages the financial aspects of the mail center and has input towards the formulation of college policy in these areas and more.

Mitchell is not new to JJC; she has been a successful part of the college for many years.

"I was hired by Ram Raghuraman in 1996 as an office assistant in the Computer Information and Office Systems Department while I was completing my associate's degrees in micromputers for usiness and computer programming," said Mitchell. "A short time after graduation, Ram recommended I continue my educational pursuit, which I did. I attended Governors State University studying business and technology, while at the same time advancing to a new role in the Business Office. Over time I was asked to fulfill the role of Director of Business Services, which after eight short months I was appointed permanently. This position encompassed the supervision and oversight of all campus procurement, contract administration, retail services, facility and campus support; each of which allowed me to learn so much more about our campus. Throughout my eight years as the director, I was mentored by former senior leaders who also encouraged me to pursue my doctoral degree."

Mitchel understands the importance of higher education. With all of this experience in many different fields and institutions, one wonders what made Mitchell choose JJC.

"In all of my experiences I have been fortunate to have collaborated with many of my peers throughout the Illinois community college system," said Mitchell. "What I believe makes JJC unique are the faculty and staff who work and support this institution, our highly involved and active student body and the strong connections to our community. I cannot tell you how many places I have visited where someone hasn't had a positive experience at JJC."

Mitchell offered this as a final word to students, "I would like every student to know that it is my goal as the vice president of administrative services, to assure the effective management and financial integrity of the college, and to provide a safe and inviting campus environment open to everyone."

This semester, Mitchell has helped the college reach gold-level recognition in sustainability, and has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the eighth year in a row.

HONORS from page 1

Deal, who also serves as accompanist for the choirs. Active duty military and veterans were asked to stand as their branch of the military was represented in the medley.

Students then came on to the stage and presented biographies of JJC veterans and showed their support and gratefulness to every veteran. For the finale of the ceremony, selected members of the choirs came to the stage and performed a modern arrangement of "America the Beautiful" by John Ness Beck.

The colors were then retired, after which the oldest and youngest veteran in attendance cut the cake provided with the refreshments. From start to finish, JJC once again demonstrated its support for the nation's veterans.

Fine arts department to host multiple events

BY PHILIP MAY
Staff Writer

The months of November and December are a busy time for the music program of the Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department. Several concerts and recitals are scheduled to take place throughout the winter. Some of these events also include food provided by JJC's culinary students in the ticket price.

Nov. 28, the week following Thanksgiving, a student recital will be held at 11 a.m. in the K building auditorium. Student recitals are a chance for students taking applied music courses with the college to perform in front of a live audience. The attendance of students and the general public is encouraged, but are asked to be respectful audience members because fine arts instructors are also using this opportunity to grade their students' performance abilities.

The jazz band has a concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7 and will be directed by Mr. Charles Morgan. MadriGala is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. "MadriGala is set up as a typical madrigal dinner and concert," explained Professor Charles Morgan, music coordinator for the JJC Fine Arts Department. "It's designed to give people an immersive experience."

The concert consists of performances by the chamber singers, directed by Philip Spencer, as well as Renaissance and seasonal music performed by the Brass Quintet during reception, directed by Morgan. The Culinary Arts Department will also be present during the event, serving hors d'oeuvres and desserts for guests. The singers, actors, dancers, musicians, and even the cooks are all JJC students.

"Due to demand, reservations are a must," insists Morgan. Tickets cost $12 and can be bought in advance by contacting the Fine Arts Theatre Box Office.

Carols and Chocolate is a concert performed by JJC's 45-piece community choir, known as the chorale, and will be held Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. The program, designed and conducted by Philip Spencer, consists of instrumentalists and soloists in addition to songs sung by the choir.

Following the performances, audience members will be treated to an assortment of chocolates donated by local businesses as well as by members of the chorale itself. The guitar and percussion ensembles will also perform a combined concert that will take place Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. These ensembles are directed by Mr. Steve Jacobson and Mr. Adam Cowger respectively.

Besides MadriGala, all recitals cost $5 for the general public, $4 for JJC faculty, and $2 for JJC students.

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Philip Chesnick (BFA 2012), *One Thing Leads to Another* (detail), 2012, cast aluminum

'Bad' novel a bestseller

BY BRIDGET DRURY
Staff Writer

Harry Dolan is back with his new book, "Very Bad Men." This is the sequel to "Bad Things Happen," a New York Times bestseller. Dolan is well-known for his mystery stories and his newest novel is considered to be one of the top ten mystery novels of the year.

"Very Bad Men" is a story involving two characters, Anthony Lark and David Loogan. The story surrounds itself around the mystery involving three men and their crime that occurred 17 years ago.

Lark has drawn up a list of names: Terry Dawtrey, Sutton Bell and Henry Kormoran. Dawtrey is in prison, Bell has a wife and daughter and a good job and Kormoran lives alone. They have little in common, except that 17 years ago they were involved in a bank robbery.

One day, Loogaan finds a note that says "I killed Henry Kormoran."

Thrown off by this sudden event, he works with his friend, Elizabeth Waishkey, a detective in Ann Arbor, Mich. Stumped about the note and who Lark is, Loogan meets Lucy Navarro, a reporter following the case.

While the two of them work together, a string of mysterious events occur that bring them closer to solving who Anthony Lark is and what his motives are.

Dolan's gifted storytelling makes this sequel just as suspenseful as the first. His books are not predictable like many mystery novels, and you can expect many twists throughout his story. Although this book is a sequel to "Bad Things Happen," you do not have to read the first book to enjoy this novel.

The events are not connected between the two books, and only a few characters are the same. I recommend "Very Bad Men" to any reader who is looking for a mystery novel that keeps them at the edge of their seats. Readers like this will enjoy this unpredictable story.

Mumford and Sons releases new album

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Mumford and Sons is an English folk rock band featuring rough but pleasing vocals and harmony as well as a mandolin. They are most famously known for their single, "Little Lion Man," but they are out with a brand new album that combines the old and loved sound with some new aspects that I think fans will enjoy just as much.

The new album, "Babel," was released earlier this year, three years after their previous 2009 album, "Sigh No More."

The haunting vocals and the mandolin are back with more songs of self-reflection and triumph. In 2010, they won Most Popular International Artist and are at it again. "Babel" is full of songs that are relatable on either side of the ocean.

While it's still hard to tell which track will become the next "Little Lion Man," the title song, "Babel," brings back a lot of the old sound that fans love. It's hard not to get pumped up when you listen to this song. Many people judge music by how strongly it makes them feel something, and "Babel" succeeds with a whole range of emotions, sometimes all in the same song.

Wrap up all of this with catchy folk instruments and memorable lyrics and it's easy to understand why Mumford and Sons has exploded with popularity over the last few years.

Mumford and Sons are excellent storytellers and musicians. Even the songs that aren't immediately catchy are powerful, and you seem to learn a little bit more about the people in the story each time you listen.

It is the kind of music you can listen to over and over again. The ability to make something simply understood, but with enough complexity to keep discovery alive, is what makes this band great.

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Tanks, robots and repetition for new fall anime season

Shows dissappoint students' expectations

By Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Just before you think anime plotlines couldn't get any more ridiculous, think again. This fall's newest series feature girls with tanks, robots, psychic powers and unlikely romances. Of course, if this all sounds familiar to you, you are no stranger to anime plotlines. This season's lineup brings nothing particularly innovative to the table, save for a few more witty lines in the romantic comedy genre and new magical powers coupled with fresh suspense.

Before deeming this season to be a dud, if you enjoy paranormal drama or have a guilty pleasure for predictable high school-related series, you might still be in the green. Let's take a peek at some series that have come out of Japan this season.

Photo Courtesy of Anime News Network

Psycho-Pass

Take every usual element from a dystopian anime and cram it all into one police thriller and you have "Psycho-Pass." In the future, technology has advanced so far that it is possible to measure a person's personality and likelihood for criminal behaviour almost instantly. Officer Ginoza is an experienced cop who works with a task force of latent criminals to capture offenders.

The only problem is some of these people might not have commited an actual crime yet, even though their "psycho-pass" indicates it's highly likely they might. This brings up some huge questions of morality, but it is still too early to tell how the series will expand on this.

In terms of animation, "Psycho-Pass" tries to emulate the dark cityscapes of "Ghost in the Shell" and "Ergo Proxy." Since this type of setting has been done so many times before, this series must push the envelope even further to maintain some sort of originality.

Photo Courtesy of Anime News Network

The Pet Girl of Sakurasou

Feminists beware. The title of this series should be a dead giveaway as to what is in store for viewers. A random high school in Japan places students in a general studies or fine arts curriculum. The plot revolves around a good-natured fellow named Sorata. After getting in trouble for keeping a stray cat in his dorm, the school transfers Sorata to the infamous Sakurasou dorms.

These dorms are known to host the eccentric art students of the school. The residents include Jin, a script writer known for his womanizer attitude, Misaki, a brilliant but hyper animator, Ryunousuke the reclusive programmer and Chihiro-sensei, a single teacher on the lookout for a husband.

The humor is campy but bearable enough until Mashiro appears. Mashiro is Chihiro's cousin and an art student returning from England. Sorata is tasked with taking care of Mashiro, which is where this anime takes a sharp turn downhill. Mashiro is talented, but unable to take care of herself. Sorata must tell Mashiro what wear and how to get ready in the morning. This girl can't even put on her own shoes or run on her own.

The blatantly sexist tone tries to come off as cute, as the shameless symbolism compares Sorata's cat to Mashiro. The animation may be the only redeeming factor, but if high school romance is your cup of tea it is best to look elsewhere.

Photo Courtesy of Crunchyroll

From the New World

Anime News Network states that author Yūsuke Kishi won the Japan Science Fiction award for his novel, "From the New World," a work that took 30 years to complete. Now, anime fans can enjoy this supernatural mystery. The plot takes place 1,000 years in the future, where five 12-year-olds attend school to learn telekinesis. By the time the group turns 14, new challenges are afoot as students begin disappearing as they age.

The main character among these five is Saki, a girl who begins to have worrisome visions after her psychic powers awaken. Not much is given away, as whispers of viscious creatures outside the village walls circulate and Saki must go through a mystical rite of passage to move on to the next grade.

The animation is ominous and beautiful, with toned down colors that flow evenly into each other. Those who are impatient for action may not enjoy the quiet build up, but otherwise this is the most promising series to arrive this season.

Photo Courtesy of Crunchyroll

Girls und Panzer

While "Strike Witches" brought us World War II war plane and high school girl hybrids, apparently this wasn't enough. Appealing to a crowd that fancies girls paired with historical weapons of warfare, "Girls und Panzer" takes place at a girls' academy that has its own tank combat team. This is considered a martial art for girls, a sport like softball or volleyball.

Miho, our protagonist, is pressured into joining the girls' tank combat team due to her family's ties with the tank industry. This series is slow to begin, with the focus being more on the girls than the tanks. When a tank does appear, it is the most beautifully animated object in the series (clearly the focus of the animators' budget). The rest of the animation is is cheaply rendered and the lack of a detailed environment leaves more to be desired.

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Men's Basketball

Kuhn leads new 'pack' into season

By Tommy Stokke
Sports Editor

JJC men's basketball coach Joe Kuhn returns just one player from last year's 22-10 squad, but when you've built a resume like Kuhn's and a tradition like JJC, you don't rebuild, you reload.

Kuhn will rely on three transfers along with an exciting freshman class to go team with leader and point guard Ben Daniel to set up a return to the National Tournament for the third team in the past four seasons.

"It is fun to implement a system to a whole new team," said Kuhn. "It really brings us back to the teaching and coaching aspect of what we are doing, which makes each day different."

The Wolves opened their season with a 78-69 home win over Olivet Nazarene's JV team. Freshman Quinn Williams led all scorers with 23 points, including five threes. Daniel and transfer Pierre Jolly chipped in with 17 apiece.

"I thought we showed some flashes tonight on both the defensive end and the offensive end but we need to be much more consistent," Kuhn said. "We were good while building our lead in the first half and then again later when we had to make plays to close the game."

For Kuhn, a returner like Daniel is a good start. He plays arguably the most important position on the floor at point guard, while being the only player on the roster with experience in Kuhn's system.

Despite averaging just 5.6 points a game, Daniel, a Plainfield North graduate, posted 13 points per game over the final 13 games in which he started.

"Once Ben took over full-time at point guard his production was outstanding," said Kuhn.

Coming along with Jolly from Truman College is Khari Jones, who averaged 11 points a game last season. Add in Carthage transfer Antwan Hill from Romeoville and a freshman class headed by Williams, Kuhn feels there is a lot to be excited about.

"Our staff really likes the young men we have brought in," Kuhn stated. "We have a group of student-athletes that will represent JJC in the manner in which we expect."

He also expects wins. Sitting at a career record of 345-152, success is no stranger to Kuhn. But in his 16th season, he knows it won't come right away. The potential is there.

"We really like the freshmen class this year," Kuhn stated. "They are a very diverse group that will add a lot of different dimensions to our team."

"We have a long way to go to become a top team, but the possibilities are there for this group."

Roundup

Cross country history made by Davila and Froemel

All-America honors in both mens and womens

By Tommy Stokke
Sports Editor

Rich McCarthy took two individuals to the National meet in Delhi, New York, and came home with the best individual results in school history.

Sophomore Claudia Davila finished second overall, earning first-team All-American honors with a time of 20:52, while freshman sensation Sam Froemel received second-team All-American honors with a sixth place finish in 28:34. Each accomplishment is the first in school history for men and women.

"Both races were the most exciting I have seen since we started cross-country at JJC," McCarthy said. "I couldn't be prouder of them."

Froemel will return for his sophomore season, which already has McCarthy eyeing a championship next season. Davila is off to a four-year school where she will participate in track and field in the spring.

"We will miss her a lot next season," McCarthy said. "It has been a real honor coaching her these last two seasons."

Fall sports fall in Regionals

Both men's soccer and women's volleyball team fell in the Region IV championship games, while the women's soccer team dropped a semi-final match.

Men's soccer suffered a 4-0 defeat to Triton. Marcos Gomez was named All-Region MVP. The Wolves finished 9-6-1 on the season.

Harper defeated the Lady Wolves soccer team 3-0, as JJC finished 9-7 on the season. Eloisa Mireles, Britney Lenza and Lauren Fowler all made first-team All-Region.

LaKisha Cameron's volleyball team fell to Rock Valley 25-16, 25-20, 25-22, ending the season 21-18 overall. Emily Kramolisch and Lizette Gonzalez were named to the All-Region team.

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Women's basketball

Lady Wolves look forward to achieving ultimate goal

New team prepares for challenging season ahead

BY LUKE SCIACCOTTA
Staff Writer

The JJC Lady Wolves basketball team is back for a new 2012-13 season with a brand new outlook.

The Lady Wolves and coach Shaun Sanderson are in a much different spot now than they were last year. They lost seven sophomores that were part of the team last year; however, they have maintained players that have been here before such as Brianna Turner, Chrystianna Allen, Brianna Marhle, Alana Warren and Jameka Evans.

"We're very excited about what this team will bring to the table," said Sanderson. "We return a great group of experienced players who have and continue to expand their basketball knowledge. They understand what it means to work hard and compete each day whether it's a game, practice or workout. The mentally toughness they've developed under our staff should carry over to the younger players we have."

There are many changes and additions to this new Lady Wolves team. They consist of eight new freshmen such as, Falon Edwards (Bolingbrook), Naghalia Washington (Plainfield North), and Tanisha Taylor (Plainfield North), as well as, Natrianna Pates, a new transfer student from Parkland.

Turner, a second-year guard from Thornwood High School, is ready to take on a new role.

"I see the direction of our team," Turner said. "My time here at JJC has prepared me as a point guard and now I am ready to lead."

Warren, a 5'8" guard from Davenport West, Iowa, is hungry this year and primed to reach her, and the team's, ultimate goal.

"I want a ring," she said. "All the sweat, aches and pain that I put myself through in June and July hopefully will pay off in March."

Regardless of all the new additions in a new season, Sanderson knows that other teams in the conference have improved their rosters and will be tough to beat. But he seems to have an idea in mind of how this team will play to win this year.

"This team is more defensive minded. It's very exciting to see players in open gym diving on the floor for loose balls. Those are the little things that set the tone for the season and help win a lot of games," Sanderson said.

(The Lady Wolves opened the season Nov. 3 with a 78-55 loss to Illinois Central. Results of the team's Iowa trip the weekend of Nov. 11 were not available at press time.)

Photo by Emily Gahan

Alana Warren attempts a shot against Illinois Central College.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Brianna Turner looks to dribble through the Illinois Central defense during the Nov. 3 game.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Alana Warren attempts to pass around an Illinois Central player.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

The male athlete of the issue is sophomore soccer standout Marcos Gomez. Gomez finished with 16 goals and five assists on the season for the Wolves. His goals landed him in seventh place overall in NJCAA for division III. Gomez was honored with the Region IV MVP and was nominated for all-America honors.

Marcos Gomez

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

Cross-country runner Claudia Davila is the female athlete of the issue. Davila earned first-team all-America honors with a second place finish in the National Tournament in Delhi, New York. Davila, who finished in 20:52, became the first women's runner in school history to earn all-America honors. Davila earned second-team II-America last season. She will move on to a four-year school in the spring and participate in track and field. "It has been a real honor coaching her for the last two seasons," head coach Rich McCarthy said about Davila.

Claudia Davila

Joliet Junior College
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WWW.JJC.EDU/BLAZER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012 VOLUME 85 ISSUE 5

JJC's Fourth Annual World AIDS Day Drag show was held on Nov. 30. See page 7.

Graphic by Emily Gahan

Gawlik gives inspirational seminar

Professor believes every student has potential to be an influential figure

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

When it comes to being a leader, business professor Wayne Gawlik shared that every JJC student has the potential to be influential figures at the last business department seminar speech of the semester on Nov 28.

"I see that everyone here has the potential to be a transformational leader," Gawlik said while looking out into the room.

The event was crowded as Gawlik enthusiastically described what sets the transformational leader apart from others. "The transformational leader helps you realize in a broader perspective," Gawlik said.

However, what exactly is a transformational leader anyway? Gawlik distinguished that there are two types of leaders as he moved the concepts from the business world into a college context.

He began explaining transactional leadership, a form of management that simply demands a product of some kind from the employee and hands out rewards in return. This type of leadership was shown to be devoid of creativity and inspiration.

Gawlik described this as simply going to class to receive a good grade.

"Are you really learning anything? I don't think so," he said.

On the other hand, transformational leaders are invested in their employees personally and do what they can to inspire people to perform at their absolute best. A transformational leader questions why others chose to go to work or school at a certain place and figures out what their interests and goals are.

The talk was upbeat, with Gawlik stating that college enables students to find jobs and realize potential. "This is the connection between who you were, who you are and who you're going to be," said Gawlik.

Anyone can be a transformational leader, but the talk went over a few traits of true leaders. Charisma, concern for the individual and the ability of intellectual stimulation are but a few of the traits. "Ladies and gentlemen, that's why we are going to college, so we can use this muscle at the top of our coconuts," Gawlik said as he pointed to his head.

College is one of the most important places to give and receive stimulating conversation and knowledge. This leads to the transformed person.

But why go through all this bother to be an exceptional person? Gawlik points to love and a passion for something as the main force that inspires people.

"We do it out of love. We want to make the world a better place. We want to make someone else smile and smile at other people," Gawlik said before challenging the audience to walk through campus and smile at others.

However, the opposite of love that Gawlik described was not hate, but apathy. Gawlik found that apathy was dangerous because not caring leads to a person who is unable to realize their potential or goals in life.

Different structures of leadership were also discussed, focusing on the meaning of vertical and horizontal forms of organization. A vertical structure

See SEMINAR on page 5

'Year of the Middle East'

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Anyone following current events knows that the Middle East is currently an area of much conflict. The Israeli-Palestinian struggle in Gaza has ignited violence and bloodshed in the area. The Syrian civil war is under way, with rebel groups fighting against the Ba'ath party. All this warfare is the center of many news headlines as of late.

The world is watching. As many already know, the Middle East is quite a boiling pot of disunity. However, Middle Eastern cultures still remain rich and full of life. JJC has held its own Year of the Middle East, sponsoring various events and speeches around campus throughout the semester on Middle Eastern topics.

A few of these events included information sessions about the study abroad program that sets out for Jordan next May 21 to June 7. The $2,750 trip will allow students to take up to three to eight credits studying at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Other events included talks about the origins of Islam and women in Islam in October.

A Middle East Fest on Oct. 29 also took place, featuring traditional foods, calligraphy and allowing students to try on a hijab. A series of lectures ended with Azam Nizamuddin presenting views between the Middle East and the West on Nov. 20. He went over the history of the

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EDITORIAL

Don't panic, earth will keep spinning

It's the (supposed) end of the world as we know it and we at the Blazer feel fine. While some are hunkering down for some well-deserved rest and festivities during the holidays, a select number of people are preparing for Planet X, the zombie apocalypse, another ice age or some other doomsday catastrophe that is the frequent subject of a bored Friday night debate.

However, it is understandable to devise survival plans in case the world does turn inside out on some unforeseen day. A functional virus outbreak plan is always a solid way to ensure that you are more prepared than average just in case some megalomaniac biologist goes rogue.

Canned goods and first aid kits are a good idea to keep around in the event of any type of emergency situation, including the zombie ant invasion. Yes, zombie ants. You read correctly.

A National Geographic article revealed that a parasitic fungus, Ophiocordyceps, takes over the nervous systems of unsuspecting carpenter ants. The fungus eventually hijacks the brain and the fungus directs the behavior of the ant so that it can grow. Zombie enthusiasts worry that a fungus like this might be able to evolve and infect humans.

We have all sorts of theories about our demise, between zombie infections and meteors. The 2012 prediction is no different, so the Blazer advises that you party your way through Dec. 21. Even if you do have some suspicion about the apocalypse, you'd rather herald in the end of all things by having a good time, right?

One of the main theories you might bring up if you are paranoid about the apocalypse is the end of the Mayan calendar. However, the Mayans didn't intend on the end of the calendar signifying that the world was going kaput. It was rather a symbol of renewal. This was a prediction of great change rather than doom and destruction. As it turns out, we live in a world of great change today.

No other time in history has witnessed such innovation in technology and science. We all know this. But as this progress enables people to live longer lives, overpopulation has become a huge issue. As computers and smart phones make our lives easier and open doors to information, the waste resulting from technology production contaminates our environment.

So it's important to understand the more tangible threats of the world we live in before tuning in to a History Channel apocalypse show. The United Nations *reported last month that* greenhouse gasses proved to be at an unsurprising record high in 2011. Hundreds of species go extinct each day due to human interference. Obesity rates have soared as people consume genetically modified and fast foods.

All this points to the fact we may have larger issues on our hands than fretting about prophecies. The world won't end in one day, but it certainly can go downhill slowly like a pot of water gradually heating to boiling point. The good news is that it's likely we will have control over our own fate.

We are probably not going to be wiped out by some outside force like an incoming planet, but a crisis brought on by our own mistakes (be it nuclear war or planetary destruction).

On that positive note, moving forward with optimism is your best bet. Make resolutions and goals for the new year. Above all, keep calm and carry on.

Where's the true meaning of Christmas?

BY AUTUMN PULVERMACHER
Staff Writer

So I'm already over it. The constant barrage of ads on TV, the internet, the radio and the newspapers for the holiday shopping season is getting tiresome. All you hear is 50 percent off this, buy one, get one free, door buster specials and stores open early and late.

All of these ads portray pretty, smiling and happy people bursting with joy after receiving that new iPad, sweater or phone.

Even Santa Claus is hawking cars now (I feel bad for the kids who catch that one and wonder why they didn't get a shiny, new luxury car under the tree). With all of this being shoved into our faces daily, I can't help but wonder- where is the true meaning of Christmas?

The most honest and heartwarming commercial I've seen is the one for the MorningStar Mission. If you haven't seen it, it's the one with the homeless veterans singing "Silent Night" around a fire barrel. The ad simply asks for people to donate so that these forgotten souls can have some semblance of a holiday.

The local animal shelters are even asking for a few donations so that the animals within don't go without simple comforts or unloved. The simplicity of these messages and the spirit of giving (because you can) is the true meaning of Christmas.

It's not about all the glitz and greed, but the kindness and generosity that lies in us all. The next time you pass a bell ringer out in the cold, or see a donation box at the front of the store, be generous. Those are the gifts that really matter.

Staff Writer says farewell to JJC

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Staff Writer

Once this semester ends, I will tip my cap and say adieu to you. I will always remember my humble beginnings as a fresh starter at the Blazer until now. While I am still waiting for acceptance from Butler and Holy Cross-Notre Dame, with St. Francis in the bag, I'm keeping my options open.

Not only do I have the option of transferring, but also graduating in the process. Upon this graduation process I have received help from the staff, teachers, co-workers and students.

I would like to thank Mr. Marcink, Carlos Enriquez, Kat Boehle, Ryan Miller, Tommy Stokke, Emily Gahan, Michael Schuller, Rachael Stella and any other staff members for the Blazer.

I will be continuing my education at Butler or Holy Cross and will be double majoring in communications and journalism, with a minor in public relations. I extend

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BLAZER STAFF

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Co-Editor-in-Chief

Michael Schuller
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Miller
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Lea Perez
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Tommy Stokke
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Staff Writers:
Eric Mcewen, Kelsi Bertheaume, Lorenzo Jackson, Autumn Pulvermacher, Eric Monahan, Victorio Shiner, April Musilek, Ashley Murray, Adriono Vazquez, Bridget Drury

Adviser: Bob Marcink

TO CONTACT THE BLAZER:
Office F-1009
(815) 280-2313
blazermail@jjc.edu
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431
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Contact information:

Blazer
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, Illinois 60431

Phone number:
815-280-2313

Spread goodwill to those in need

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Staff Writer

For the longest time I have let life run its course during the holidays. Well, not anymore. Celebrating Christmas has always been one of my favorite traditions because of family, friends, gifts and the good nature of all.

By this, I simply mean that the kind spirit of everyone is more apparent around the holidays

It has been a family tradition of ours to donate gifts to the hospital during this season. We do not have to do this, but we do so to spread the good will towards others and hope that even the slightest amount of assistance carries over throughout the year and not just during the holidays. Not to mention, the fact that those who spend Christmas in the hospital are in worse shape than us, and unlike most of us the last thing they are thinking about are gifts.

But who doesn't like gifts? Deep down we are all a tiny bit conceded. The only people who can say they aren't are those who never keep anything that they get, which almost no one does. I know I am conceded to an extent, but if you ask me to help others in need I'll be glad to help.

Helping around the holiday season always seems to take priority, even over the mad deals of shopping and flash one day sales, which I find ironic since most sales occur during the holidays to increase business and not necessarily good will.

Things like donating a dollar to the Salvation Army, donating gifts to a local charity or giving to a family in need can give that feeling of pride that can provide us with self-realization and peace with ourselves.

Finding myself, not something to be taken lightly, took me quite some time to figure out. Am I stubborn? Am I arrogant? Am I inconsiderate of others? No, I just value being right more than others and would do things as I saw fit. But none of that matters during the holidays.

During Christmas, I'll hold the door open for others who can easily open the door for themselves, or let them go in front of me in line just to feel a little better about myself. I extend the good gesture of paying it forward.

Paying it forward is an interesting concept if you get the chance to research it and if you don't I can guarantee that you practice it every day. Either a phone call or text to a friend or family, a friendly greeting or a kind gesture can always take place during the Christmas season. Do your part and pay it forward.

The plight of the 90s generation

BY EMILY GAHAN
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In a comfortable corner, surrounded by plastic dinosaurs and classic My Little Pony figures, my thumbs began to receive a work out that no previous generation had experienced before. I began playing "Pokemon Yellow" on my new Game Boy Color. The year was 1998. The sound of dial up internet connections and kids blowing on dusty Nintendo 64 video game cartridges filled the air.

Those born in the early 90s certainly have feelings of nostalgia regarding this transformative time in history. Media reached my generation on a previously unseen level, leading to the arrival of advertisements and TV shows that members of Generation Y still remember fondly. For me, it was "Sailor Moon," "Dexter's Lab," "Powerpuff Girls" and other Cartoon Network shows.

Many of us still admit to enjoying these shows today, watching marathons with friends and musing over how our generation's shows were much more engaging than today's hyper fare. Many franchises of the 90s have even remained alive and well.

"My Little Pony" is notable, with the "brony" phenomena suggesting that Millennials still have a taste for our childhoods even as adults (or something close to adults). But why? Is it because advertisers have managed to ensnare us for life? Do we genuinely still love the video games, movies and other entertainments from our past? I think it might be a combination of both.

The 90s summoned in the pinnacle of marketing and assured our young minds that we were to expect nothing but the best out of our quality of life.

This gave us the stigma that we were the "Entitled Generation," or simply a group of spoiled youngsters who wanted the luxuries of life without doing the work for it. The post-9/11 era has us scrambling to retreat to better days that simply aren't there.

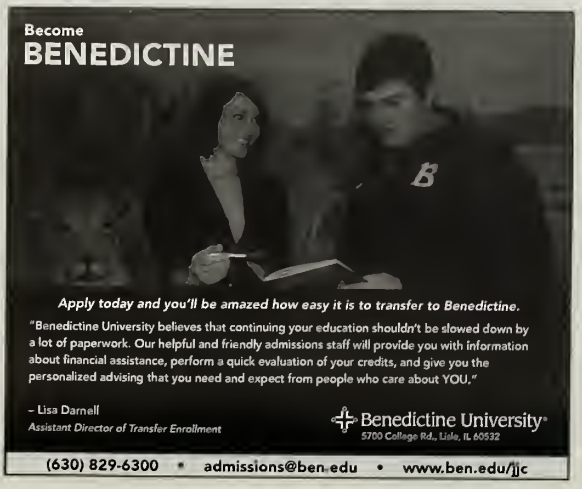
Employers complain that we expect too much in the work place while older generations might declare we were coddled to a bit too much. Whatever the case, I'm still proud to be a 90s kid, the first group of children to come of age totally immersed in the cyber age.

Contrary to the media's grim perception of us, I think we're coping quite well. Afraid to make the same mistakes as our parents, we are holding out on or skipping many previously undisputed mile stones in young adult life.

Increasing numbers of young adults are deciding to remain child free due to the financial and emotional burdens or postponing marriage to pursue an education. We are living at home to offset the stresses of hard economic times. We are making logical choices that many generations before us never thought to because a sense of tradition was more influential.

We are groundbreaking in our use of technology and values in ways that will carry on once the influence of the Baby Boomers has faded. I think our ability to recognize global issues has inspired us to be more worldly and tolerant of differences as a whole.

While this may be too upbeat of a prediction, it may be Generation Y that turns around many of the world's economic and social problems. We might even declare that Pluto is a planet again.



Students show off talent

By Ashley Murray
Staff Writer

As students were heading to class, they probably saw or heard a variety of students singing and dancing. A student talent showcase was held in the lower J-building on Nov. 16, bringing out a variety of performers from the woodwork. This event was sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, GLOW and Student Government.

There were a total of 13 students who participated in this event. The MC of the night was Anthony Sallis. He was getting the crowd laughing by telling a variety of different jokes.

The participating students gave it their all to the six judges, and by the end of the night there were only three winners. Third place went to Casey Moss, second place was awarded to Jimmy Jones and first place went to Deandre McNeal. Prizes were $50, $75, and $100 Visa gift cards respectively.

"This was my first time being in the show, but I had a blast and met some awesome people," Rebecca Ziermann said about the show as a whole.

"Wow. It was really amazing to see all these students go up and give their best and I am show glad I was there supporting my friends," said Alexis McMartin.

The show was filled with varying amounts of talent and the students created the high energy that inspired the performers to sing, dance and even spin glow sticks on stage.

"It was an honor and a privilege to have heard such amazing talents and also to have shared mine with you all," first place winner Mcneal said.

At the end of the night, many of the participants stayed around and played music on the piano. This event takes place every year, and each year increasing numbers of students show up to share their talent.

"This is my first semester at JJC, but the students who went up today were amazing beyond belief, I am so glad I attended," said Nicole Tamburelli, another viewer of the show.

Students showed off their best talents for prizes on Nov. 16. *Photo courtesy of OSA*

YEAR from page 1

Middle East extensively before reviewing how European and American scholars studied eastern religion and culture.

"There was this notion of discovering the East by the translating of texts at universities and so forth," Nizamuddin said about studies of the East in the 20th century.

However, there were arguments proposed by scholars that the Middle Eastern people were backwards in comparison with European traditions. This tug of war for acceptance still goes on today.

Nizamuddin also mentioned some fun facts. Many students did not know that yoghurt originated in the Middle East.

Cultural acceptance is a goal that JJC has worked extensively on. JJC hosts many multicultural events, giving students a global education about many various subjects.

"I think that the more we understand other cultures, we know where people are coming from. We all want the same thing. We all want a decent life for ourselves," said Berta Arias, a coordinator for international studies and education. These series of events come right on time for 2013, JJC's 25th anniversary of international education.

EVENT from page 6

At the conclusion of the talk, members discussed union organizing and how to get people interested in taking action at their jobs. The Progressive Student Union considered their first sponsored event as a success and hopes to continue what's been started next semester.

FAREWELL from page 2

my gratitude to Mr. Marcink for getting me involved in this field.

Soon, JJC will be a memory of old and the lessons learned will be applied later on. JJC will always be a part of my life, for good or bad. It is what you make of it, and I for one plan on making the better of it and taking the strides as they come.

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Vet tech program gives pets a chance

By Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Anyone walking by the vet tech building on campus might hear dogs barking or see students taking dogs out for a stroll. Animal lovers curious about the pets that JJC hosts might be pleasantly surprised that the veterinary department sponsors its own adoption program.

Roughly 15 dogs and 15 cats are brought to campus from Joliet Township Animal Control at the beginning every semester. Veterinary students are assigned to care for a certain animal until the dogs and cats are put up for adoption at the end of the semester. Students are given first dibs on the animals for a month before opening up the adoptions to the public.

All animals are microchipped and given proper vaccinations. Dogs are tested for heart worms and cats are checked for leukemia. Some of the pets are spayed or neutered.

"They come from a shelter, so a lot of them are thin or have issues. We work them up and treat them so they go out looking fit and healthy when they leave here," said Susan Morgan, a facilities manager for the vet tech program. "It's a win-win situation for the shelter because they get 60 animals a year that are adopted and even more adoptable because of what we put into them."

Animals that are already spayed or neutered cost $25, and those who still require the surgery are priced at $45 to $65 depending on their needs. This covers the price of spaying or neutering.

"It's a good deal," said Morgan.

This semester's animals were sent back to the Animal Control on Nov. 30, with the vast majority of them successfully adopted into new homes. Morgan noted that it's not uncommon for all of the animals to be adopted, but there were a few that weren't this year. However, there is some good news for even these animals.

"When they go back to the shelter they're adopted there because they have about $400 to $600 dollars worth of veterinary care," Morgan said.

Morgan also said that buying an animal from a reputable breeder isn't bad if a pet owner is looking for a certain breed of animal.

"If you don't have a specific thing you want a dog for, rescuing a dog is a wonderful alternative," she continued to say. One partieular dog is Parker, an exuberant labrador retriever and poodle mix. Morgan brought him out from his cage, guiding Parker sternly as he tried to pull forward.

The adoptable animals are also trained for behavioral issues while they are under the care of students. All the animals on campus are lively in their own way. From kitties like Cassie and Gigli to lap dogs like Baxter, another bunch of animals came and went.

While adoptions are over for this semester, the A.W.E.N. club is hosting a pet drive that will benefit animals at shelters this month. Anyone interesting in donating new pet toys can do so at a drop box located in the library.

Parker, the labradoodle.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Photo by Emily Gahan

Susan Morgan, facilities manager, sits with Parker.

SEMINAR from page 1

involves the standard hierarchy of management, with bosses and and employees under them.

However, Gawlik argues that the horizontal structure is more positive for innovation.

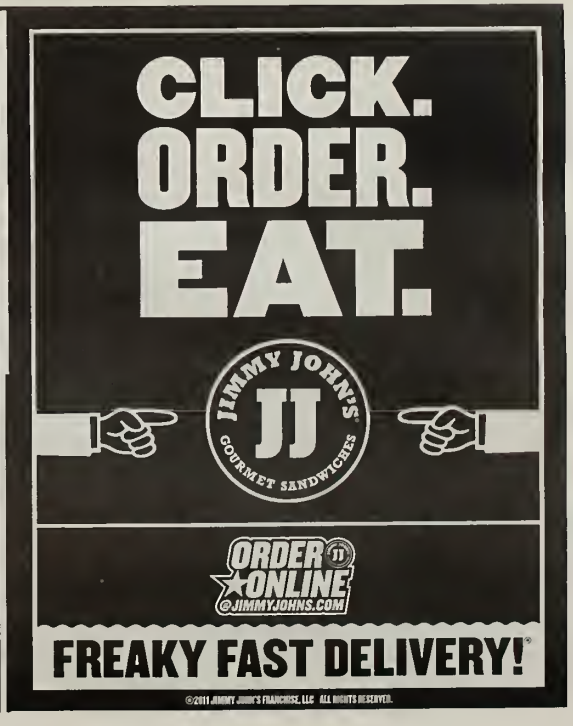
"Horizontalizing is what our college does best," Gawlik said after explaining that being in a horizontal setting involves equal, peer-to-peer interaction without the traditional power of boss over employee.

Gawlik ended as positively as he began, reminding the crowd about the resources available to students at JJC so they can have a boost in their search for what inspires them. The talk was engaging, warm and a few laughs were heard.

Look for the next series of business department seminars taking place during the spring semester.

Photo by Emily Gahan

Business professor Wayne Gawlik gives seminar about what it takes to be a good leader.



Remembering the history of Pearl Harbor

By Eric Monahan
Staff Writer

The U.S. will be recognizing the history of a solemn day on Dec. 7. The Pearl Harbor attacks were, as Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "a date that will live in infamy." It was on this day 71 years ago that the United States was struck by foreign attackers for the first time.

The Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the U.S. Pacific coastal fleet, which proved to be a major turning point for the American decision to enter World War II.

The American coastal fleet and aircraft carriers sustained critical damages. The entire fleet was depleted around 50 percent from the attack. 188 aircrafts were destroyed. 2,402 Americans were killed and 1,282 were wounded.

The day after the attack, the U.S. declared war against Japan. However, it was not until Dec. 11 that Germany and Italy declared war against the U.S. due to subsequent events that took place, which the U.S. reciprocated.

It was a four year battle, ending with the atomic bomb and the occupation of Japan. The occupation strategy put a stranglehold on the Japanese Navy's ability to operate. On Aug. 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb nicknamed "Little Boy" on Nagasaki. The attacks were further enhanced by Russia. The Soviet Union invaded Japan on Aug. 9, shortly after midnight.

When the U.S.S.R. invaded Japan, it violated a contract between the two countries, which surprised Japan. This left them vulnerable to another attack from the United States.

This time, the U.S. launched another atomic attack on Hiroshima. This atomic bomb was nicknamed "Fat Man."

It was not until six days later that Japan formally announced its surrender to the Allied Powers on Aug. 15. The official end of the war in Japan came on Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

It was on this day that the war officially ended for all countries involved, even though some small forces continued to fight on long after the war ended.

Progressive Student Union hosts first event

By Emily Gahan
Co-Editor-in-Chief

JJC's newest club, the Progressive Student Union, hosted its first event, bringing in Wal-Mart warehouse striker Mike Compton and union organizer Chris White to talk about overcoming exploitation and oppression in the workplace.

Student John Stachelski, one of the group members who participated in Wal-Mart warehouse strikes that took place this fall, expressed optimism about the eventual labor negotiations that took place once the strikes were over.

"After 21 days we were able to re-enter and got paid all the money we were owed while we were not working and saw some significant changes at the warehouse, including fans and TVs," said Stachelski.

One of the issues the Progressive Student Union addresses is worker's rights and supporting a more democratic environment at work, along with other topics of activism. The Nov. 28 discussion was casual yet close knit and on track with the group's goals.

The beginnings of the strikes in Elwood were humble. Compton expressed that it was rather difficult to state grievances due to management passing the blame along. Schneider Logistics is a subcontractor with Wal-Mart, making the process less straightforward. Eventually, word was spread among the workers.

"We started out in the warehouse just talking amongst ourselves in a small group. We started pushing a petition and it just grew from there," Compton said. "People were scared. They didn't want to loose their jobs."

After gathering 135 signatures, management did not accept the petition put forward.

"They told me I was taken out of service. Couldn't tell you exactly what that means. I'm still working on getting my job back," Compton said. He was one of many strikers who were suspended for walking out to strike. However, after negotiations heralded turned around some of the conditions in the warehouse, employees were less afraid to express their feelings about how they were treated on the job.

White then spoke, explaining how the logistics industry works. The Chicago area was always a main transportation hub for goods.

"You are right in the center of the world's largest inland port," said White. "It's a two-day drive for 70 percent of the country. What does that mean? Everything you have with you tonight probably got made somewhere else. It probably got bought by a manufacturer that makes that for lots of different companies. How they compete is how they can get that stuff over here."

Elwood takes in imports from overseas and distributes the items throughout the rest of the country. White asked what would happen if all of Joliet called in sick on one day and didn't go to work at the warehouses. This gives the workers the power to shut down business as usual.

See EVENT on page 4

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This year I have a leadership role in VOICE, the student government group at CUC. My role is as the Service Learning Coordinator, helping when student clubs are looking for service projects on campus or in the local Chicago area, and helping publicize the service projects. And for my communication major, I'm able to have a radio show on our campus radio station, WCGR. It's cool that we get to have so many hands-on learning experiences at CUC.

—Lauren Busch, communication and psychology double major from Bellflower, California

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Glitz, glamour and fabulous fashion

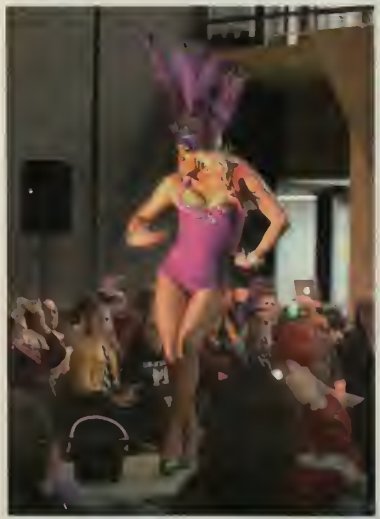
'Elysse Giovanni' prepares to take the stage.

JJC student Cassie Bradford tips the performer of a drag show participant on Friday, Nov. 30.

The AIDS/HIV quilt, featured at both the JJC bridge and drag show, signifies the importance of AIDS Awareness Day.

'Zander Mander' in his Maleficent costume.

Photos by: Renee Ronzone



'CeCe La Rouge' struts down the aisle in fashion.

'Lana Lake,' a student at JJC, performs on the runway at the drag show.

Music and more on tap

Still more to come for JJC fine arts

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It's the end of the semester and finals are just around the corner. If you need to take a break, just enjoy some of the sounds and views from JJC's various fine arts programs.

The JJC Jazz Band and the Morris High School Jazz Band will be performing in concert Dec. 7. at 7:30 p.m. Charles Morgan will be directing the JJC Jazz Band, and the Morris High School Jazz Band will be a special guest director, Donald Stinson.

The concert will open with the high school band and continue with the college's band. Both bands will feature multiple soloists and a variety of different music and experiences for anyone interested in a great and diverse jazz performance.

The JJC Chamber Singers will perform their annual Madrigala under the direction of Philip Spencer on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Madrigala 2012 will include musicians, jesters and a meal provided by our culinary arts department. The music will feature pieces and carols from around the world and in several languages, as well as seasonal and renaissance music performed and directed by Morgan during the intermission while food is provided. Tickets may be reserved at the college's box office near the theater and limited seating is also available at the door.

The JJC Chorale will be performing their Carols and Chocolate concert under the direction of Spencer on Dec. 9 at 3:00 p.m. Following the concert, the audience is invited to enjoy a buffet of chocolates donated by local businesses and members of the Chorale. The Chorale boasts almost 50 members in its ensemble and is delighted to bring the sounds of the season to JJC.

The JJC Guitar and Percussion ensembles will perform their concert on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Directed by Steve Jacobson and Adam Cowger respectively, the ensembles have joined forces to bring you the final concert of the semester. Special guest artist Michael Mixtacki will join the Percussion Ensemble for their performance. Mixtacki is a renowned Latin percussionist and a visiting instructor of percussion at Northern Illinois University.

These are the last few concerts of the semester, so don't miss out. The fine arts programs will resume in the spring with the new semester. Until then, enjoy the season and don't let these last few days of exams and classes wear you down. Take some time and listen to what's going on around campus.

'Halo 4' is a must play for 'shooters'

BY MICHAEL SCHULLER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

If you're looking for your classic first-person shooter, look no farther than "Halo 4."

The Halo franchise began on the original Xbox console with a company named Bungie, and is claimed by many to not only reimagine the first-person shooter, but was a founding and crucial member of online console gaming. Bungie has now moved on to other projects, but members of the Halo team stayed on and formed 343, and went on to make "Halo 4."

Halo fans demand not only a good campaign, but a great multiplayer experience. 343 delivers on both ends. The campaign has a darker tone than previous games. The story told is more personal for Master Chief, as he is not only trying to save the world, but his A.I. from the edge of insanity. You get to explore the Spartan's humanity as well as vividly detailed planets.

The game's soundtrack is nothing short of amazing. When you emerge from a cave in the second mission and see blue sky for the first time, you almost have to pause and enjoy the scenery and sounds. They're that good.

The new Promethean enemies are intense to battle, especially on legendary difficulty. But the new Promethean weapons are a blast to use, and all the weapons have been given new realistic sounds that make them even more enjoyable to fire. Everything was developed to be a little more deadly, but the weapons systems are still more balanced than they have ever been.

For some players it's all about the multiplayer mode. With tons of new maps, as well as a few revisited experiences, including a Valhalla-styled map, most fans are not disappointed. The multiplayer system itself is on an evolving system.

The new Spartan Ops option is a series of special ops you can play alone or with friends, and it comes with videos so you can follow the story as you go along. Each episode consists of a few new missions, and are being released over time to create a refreshing experience for players. Spartan Ops has been scheduled to continue across the next two years.

The more classic playlists have also been set up as an evolving system, with some consistent modes such as the new Regicide Free for All as well as some playlists that are changed over certain periods of time to help the players change up their gaming experience.

Overall, the balanced weapons make the game a lot more enjoyable than before. Although, a disappointing feature involves how some maps are not optimized for every game type. Capture the Flag seems to have the most issues with this. But if you're in Slayer or one of the other most popular game types, it is simply fantastic.

"Halo 4" creates a new experience, but still follows in the tried and true methods of the Halo franchise. It's a new enough game to still keep fans interested after all the previous releases, but it holds the same styling that got fans swarming the stores at midnight year after year. This game is a must have for any first-person shooter fan.

Photo courtesy of 343

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What to look forward to in 2013

BY EMILY GAHAN

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Playing as many video games as possible might not be the most advisable resolution once 2013 rolls around, but gamers have much to expect when it comes to new releases next year. Many new takes on established titles are in order, but that doesn't mean that developers are pumping out more of the same. This year has proved to be a decent mark in gaming, with the disputed exception of Blizzard's kung-fu panda concept making its way into World of Warcraft's latest expansion. "Halo 4"was also recently released in time for Christmas, making the first in a new trilogy of games. But better releases await those who save their money until after the holiday rush.

Photo courtesy of 2K Games

BioShock Infinite

A departure from Rapture is literally a breath of fresh air for the third installment of the "BioShock" series. Taking place in the seemingly dystopian floating city of Columbia, you play as Booker DeWitt, a former Pinkerton National Detective agent.

Your mission is to find and rescue Elizabeth, a captive within the city. But as her rescue reveals her as a central figure tied to a civil war in the city, a chain of events begin to unfold with the player making decisions about the fate of Columbia, similar to that of Rapture in the previous games.

Set in 1912, the plot of the game, coupled with its stunning visuals of the air-city, is what drives it to be highly anticipated. The story of "BioShock Infinite" deals with themes of American superiority. When Columbia was launched by the U.S. government in 1900, it turned out to be a battleship which fired on a group of Chinese civilians. Columbia looks like a steampunk Worlds Fair, which is what the developers intended.

The game is set to release on Feb. 26. This title doesn't look to be a disappointment in the least, with the bold new storyline and setting a great hook into this established series.

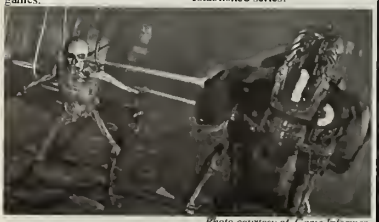

Photo courtesy of Game Informer

Dead Space 3

While horror video games are not my cup of tea, "Dead Space 3" at least looks amazing in terms of graphics. The previous two games included the tales of the Ishimura, a space station that fell to a terrifying breed of alien that reanimates dead tissue.

The plot follows Isaac Clarke and John Carver as they once again attempt to eradicate the Necromoprh aliens, this time on the ice planet of Tau Volantis. Unlike "BioShock Infinite," this notoriously seat-of-your-pants title doesn't throw any new punches in terms of a revamped plot. It is questionable if the new game play elements, such as the integration of co-op mode, will redeem this lack of plot evolution.

However, screenshots reveal that "Dead Space 3" might not have the scary factor it once did. Players are confronted with more action and explosions than eerie silence, which is a sign that EA developers have decided to phase the series out of the horror genre. Those who have played the "Dead Space" series for its terrifying sudden alien attacks will find this latest game predictable and stripped of its chilling suspense.

While a disappointment in comparison with its roots, "Dead Space 3" might still have promise if you allow it to stand alone against the other two games in the series. Expect it in stores Feb. 5.

Photo courtesy of Fan Pop

Tomb Raider

Many years later, Lara Croft returns and with a story previously untold. The revamped "Tomb Raider" will focus of Croft and how she evolves into a tough survivor. The player experiences Croft's transformation first hand as she is stranded on a tropical island after escaping a ship wreck.

Fans of the franchise will love that they get to experience the origins of Croft, but others may not be so keen on reviving the concept.

Either way, screenshot previews were so realistic I wondered if I was looking at an actual person scaling over cliffs. You can even see the dirt and grime on Croft's face in some close up shots.

It seems this adventure will be very open, leaving it up to the player to explore the island however they choose. The player decides if they will trust the survivors or how Croft is going to endure. As "Tomb" Riader" starts up again, this game is decidedly much more violent, with Croft murdered and raped as her personality and resolve is hardened.

While not a "Tomb Raider" fan myself, I still see how this game might pull through as a worthy play for the PC. This title will be on shelves once March 5 rolls around.

Photo courtesy of Bethesda

Elder Scrolls Online

Set 1,000 years prior to "Skyrim," the "Elder Scrolls Online" is the most anticipated MMO release next year. Players will have the option to side with one of three factions at war over the throne of Tamiril. You may pick between the the Aldmeri Dominion (composed of High Elves, Wood Elves and Khajiit races), the Daggerfall Covenant (Bretons, Redguards and Orcs) and the Ebonheart Pact (Nords, Dark Elves and Argonian races).

Players will experience much of the lore they read about while playing "Skyrim" and will be able to explore the whole of Tamiril with their friends (with the exception of blocked off areas that are expansion content).

An interesting feature of this game that other MMOs don't seem have is its massive server. All players will be able to reside together on one big server, versus choosing between several. This allows friends and guild mates to interact with each other in a way that's rare for an MMO thusfar.

As expected, the vast customization options from the other "Elder Scrolls" games carries over to an MMO setting. Players can fashion any type of armor or use any weapon for their characters, regardless of class. Of course, some items will suit a character better than others, so being able to make that judgment call is what makes "Elder Scrolls Online" look promising.

While its hard to cover everything this game will entail, it seems developers are emphasizing that the player explore and choose between several quests, and it's also important players are on equal footing for their level in PvE and PvP.

This is the release I'm most excited about, but it's still very much in the midst of development until mid-to-late 2013.

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Breaking Dawn movie ends Twilight trilogy

By Kristi Bedolla
Staff Writer

The epic conclusion of "Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part Two" has finally been released, leaving Twilight fans feeling bittersweet for their beloved story coming to a close or others in relief that the story between Bella and Edward is finally over. With the known all-star cast and some new faces, this movie finishes up the love story between a vampire and a human girl, along with her werewolf friend.

The movie picks up as Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) completes her transition into a vampire to save her and her newborn baby's life. Her senses are magnified, along with her new physical abilities outmatching her previous state. With Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) by her side, Bella embraces her vampire self, ready to begin eternity with her new family. Before seeing her daughter, Renesmee (Mackenzie Foy), Bella has to control her thirst for human blood and feed on animal blood like the Cullens.

When she finally sees her daughter for the first time, it brings a feeling of joy and relief to finally see both mother and daughter alive and well. Jacob (Taylor Lautner) accepts Bella's transition and her daughter and becomes enamored with Renesmee.

All of the Cullens adore the newborn baby, cherishing the child as if she were their own. At first glance, Renesmee looks normal as any child; however, she possesses a telepathic ability unlike anyone has ever seen. Her very existence is peculiar, which has everyone searching for clues to her survival.

But happiness does not last long for the Cullens and their new addition. Alice (Ashley Greene) has a vision that the Volturi, the feared and powerful vampire leaders in Italy, are coming for the Cullens and Renesmee. To protect Bella and the child, Carlisle (Peter Facinelli) calls on his friends to show that Renesmee is no danger to anyone.

All of the sudden, Alice and Jasper (Jackson Rathbone) leave without any indication of their whereabouts except for a note about the vision Alice saw. Where did they go? When Carlisle's friends meet Renesmee will it be enough to stop the Volturi from destroying their clan? Will there be a happy ever after for Bella and Edward?

As we come to a close for the Twilight saga, the film reflects the finality of the story. The acting in this movie was adequate, the cinematography showing aerial views of forest landscape was usual amongst all the films.

The music in the film added to the emotions shown. Towards the end of the film, the action picked up and the twist added in left me surprised and confused. As I left the theater, I felt that the movie was just ok. It summed up the last half of the book of Breaking Dawn adequately. I give it three-and-a-half stars.

Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

Book Review

King's 'dome' a must read

Novel explores the workings of inner mind

By Michael Schuller
Co-Editor-in-Chief

"Under the Dome" by Stephen King is a dark and thrilling novel to read. King explores the inner working of the human mind and shows what people are capable of given the right circumstances.

The setting is sometime after 2012, but in a familiar small town setting. The biggest difference between this world and ours is the massive and lethal dome that has come crashing down over the small Maine town of Chester's Mill.

The dome is made out of some unusual and foreign material and no one knows why it is there or how to get rid of it. When it came crashing down, people were not only trapped inside of it, but some were unfortunate enough to be destroyed and severed by being caught in the path of its descent.

Those trapped inside have very little hope to escape, but can still communicate with the outside world in some ways.

The book is as much of a social commentary as it is a fictional suspense novel. It illustrates what malicious lengths some people would go to seize power and the sacrifices others make to stop it. Even though this sounds like the theme of many novels, King makes it human by writing about the people trapped inside of their own micro-community and acting out as any normal person would, driven by their moral duty or their need for personal gain.

One of these people decides to try to take over the town completely after the dome kills some of the town's more prominent members. He makes his move and elects himself to be the town's new leader. He then issues a new police force full of questionable people.

One of the members is his own son, who while the dome was falling was in the middle of murdering a young woman. When someone tries to stop the power-hungry leaders, he is accused of that and a few other murders and is arrested and thrown in jail.

The suspense of "Under the Dome" comes from real fears that many of us have and things we all believe can truly happen. In a closed society, these nightmares accelerate and get gruesome quickly. The world can watch, but what's happening under the dome can only be stopped from under the dome. This is a enthralling and thrilling read that is to be expected from the "King" of horror.

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blazermail@jjc.edu
815-280-2313
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Sell Back Your Fall Textbooks!

The JJC Bookstore is buying back your textbooks in December. Don't miss your chance to get some extra cash back just in time for the holiday shopping season!

Please note that except for Saturday, Dec. 8, students planning to sell back their books at Main Campus should come to Room A-1002, the auxiliary dining room across from the cafeteria.

Fall Textbook Buyback Schedule:

Main Campus

Thursday, Dec. 6	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.	A - 1D02
Friday, Dec. 7	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	A - 1002
Saturday, Dec. 8	8 a.m. – noon	Bookstore
Monday - Thursday, Dec. 1D - 13	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.	A - 1DD2
Friday, Dec. 14	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	A - 1002

Romeoville Campus

Wednesday, Dec. 12	5:30 p.m. – 7:3D p.m.

Not able to bring your books in on the dates listed? The JJC Bookstore buys back books every business day! Visit www.jjc.edu/bookstore for more information.

Basketball

Jolly doing it all early for Wolves

BY TOMMY STOKKE
Sports Editor

Well aware of the height deficiencies as well as the question marks surrounding his roster, men's basketball coach Joe Kuhn knows this is the time of the year to find out what he has to work with, as well as what there is to improve on before the conference season.

And at just 4-4 on the season and without a win in a non-JV contest, there are concerns for Kuhn.

Check Pierre Jolly off that list.

Jolly has emerged as a standout for the Wolves in multiple facets of the game, providing a glimpse of things to come for the latter part of the season despite the slow start.

"For us, there really can't be a long grace period, and our players need to be ready to go from day one," Kuhn said. "Due to the success we've had over the years, every team brings their best game against us."

JJC is struggling against that thus far. The Wolves have dropped contests to Illinois Valley, Kennedy-King, Morton and Prairie State sandwiched around four JV victories.

"It is a developing issue," Kuhn said. "Until you start playing live games, you don't really know how players are going to perform."

The two players who have performed are Jolly and lone-returner Ben Daniel. Daniel has been the floor general, averaging 8.6 points a game to go along with 5 assists per game. Jolly, a transfer from Truman College , has upped his scoring average from 13 last season to 18.6 currently. He's also leading the team with 6.9 rebounds a game, a bright spot on an otherwise Achilles heel.

"We are a very small team," said Kuhn. "Generally, we have at least several guys 6'6" or so, but it just didn't work out that way (this season). As a non-scholarship school it is difficult to consistently get really good inside players."

With just one player listed 6'5" or above, rebounding has been an issue. Besides Jolly, no one is averaging more than 3.5 rebounds a game.

Against Morton, rebounding was specifically the difference, according to Kuhn.

"I thought we played a good game overall, but rebounding and a couple transition baskets were the difference," he said. "Our rebounding let us down tonight."

In the recent 69-58 loss to Kennedy-King, 32 points and 8 rebounds on an efficient 12-19 shooting night from Jolly had Kuhn looking in an optimistic view.

"Overall, I thought that we took another step in the right direction," he said. "This was our best rebounding effort of the season. Pierre Jolly had a great game for the second night in a row."

Going through January, the Wolves have scheduled games against Moraine (Dec. 6), Olive-Harvey (Dec. 13), Lake Michigan College (Dec. 15), Daley College (Dec. 18) and South Suburban College (Dec. 20) before taking a break from game action until they return to the court January 5 against Purdue-Calumet College, ending non-conference play. The N4C season opener is January 9 at home against Harper College.

> *"Overall, I thought that we took another step in the right direction...Pierre Jolly had a great game for the second night in a row," - head coach Joe Kuhn.*

To reach the heights that the programs been recently—three national tournament appearances since 2008—rebounding will need to improve, and 57.7 points per game won't be enough. But the team is well aware of what's at stake with the work ethic to reach those high standards.

"Our guys are well aware of the tradition of our program," Kuhn said. "That is one of the reasons players choose to come to JJC as they know they will be successful."

Editors Note: Results for the December 1 and December 4 game were not available at press time.

Did you know? Men's head coach Joe Kuhn is second in school history in wins with 345, trailing just A.A Fizz Wills.

Fighting Irish face Alabama on Jan. 7

Notre Dame makes BCS Championship game against 'Tide'

Writer gives opinion on historic team

BY ERIC MONAHAN
Staff Writer

"Outlined against a gray and blue November sky, the four horsemen rode again. No, it wasn't famine, pestilence, death or destruction."

When Grantland Rice wrote that famous passage about Notre Dame football 88 years ago, he was speaking of Harry Stuhldreher, Don Miller, Jim Crowley and Elmer Layden. This year the new four horseman are Garrett Atkinson, Theo Riddick, Cierre Wood and Everett Golson, and they, too, will have a shot at immortality this January.

Notre Dame is involved in more lore than any other football program. Why? Simply put, this has to do with an invention called the forward pass. If you haven't noticed, this has filtered above and below the collegiate level.

As it was some time ago, some of you are asking why bring up the memories of old? Notre Dame football is relevant again.

Notre Dame does not belong to a conference, so how can they be relevant in this new era of conference re-alignment? Simple—keeping its options open.

Even though Notre Dame did join a non-ACC-conference package, where they will play five games against ACC opponents, they are still considered Independents. Why are they still Independents?

Independents are teams that play a variety of opponents from different conferences. For instance, in Notre Dame's case they play the Big Ten, PAC-12, WAC, Mountain West, Big-12, Conference USA, other Independents and other conferences. The Irish don't have the opportunity to play in a conference title game, such as a Florida State (ACC), Alabama (SEC) or Stanford (PAC-12).

Notre Dame does this to set up more recruiting locations. Any college football fan and potential NFL players know that California and Florida are hotbeds for recruiting. Without being limited to a conference, Notre Dame is given better access to those areas.

And if you haven't been paying attention or have no clue about college football, Notre Dame is once again in the run for a national championship contender as the only undefeated team left that is still bowl-eligible. Ohio State is undefeated but isn't bowl-eligible due to NCAA sanctions.

In the midst of conference realignment, teams are jumping from coast-to-coast and conference-to-conference to gain a better standing with the BCS system for projecting bowls. Love them or hate them,Notre Dame is once again relevant as an Independent and At-Large bid rather than an automatic bid for winning a conference. After going undefeatcd--a perfect 12-0--the Irish meet SEC champion Alabama, who is looking to defend its title.

Briana McCurdy (left) looks to drive. *Photo by Emily Gahan*

Alana Warren scores between two defenders. *Photo by Emily Gahan*

Despite slow start, women's basketball putting pieces of the puzzle together

Sanderson believes early season gaunlet will pay off

BY TOMMY STOKKE
Sports Editor

JJC women's basketball coach Shaun Sanderson sees his team like a one-thousand piece puzzle. Sitting at 1-6, the complete picture isn't easy to see. But as the season progresses and more and more pieces fall into place, don't be surprised to see a picture of at least a conference championship.

He certainly won't.

"We expect to win conference," he said. "Our conference schedule won't be as difficult as our non-conference was. We would like to go undefeated, but we definitely want first place and get back to the National tournament and get first instead of seventh."

On paper, it looks like someone flipped puzzle leaving pieces scattered everywhere. Sanderson is missing two key players due to transfer rules. The team has lost three games by at least 20 points. But it's the exact path Sanderson believes will better his team down the road.

"We knew we would have some losses early," he said. "We have a lot of work to do. But we're growing. We have eight freshmen and one transfer, and we knew we would be up against tough competition.

"I want to make it hard for them," he said. "You have to go through the tough times and lose before you can understand how to win. It shows us how much harder we have to work to get in position to compete."

The team understands this and has far from given up on the season early on. On two different occasions thus far, the Lady Wolves have fallen behind by over 20 points while overcoming the deficit to either regain a lead or close it to within four points.

"I'm seeing a lot of improvement," Sanderson said. "Mentally, we are stronger. We're starting to understand our roles and come together. I think we'll see a turnaround in a week or two."

To reach the goal of six non-conference wins that Sanderson has set, the play of Alana Warren and Briana McCurdy will be a key. They're leading the team in scoring at 14 and 13 points per game, respectively.

Along with Warren and McCurdy, sharpshooting Natrianna Pates will look to keep benefitting from the penetration and playmaking of Warren by knocking down threes. She netted six threes in a win over Elgin and is shooting 35% from behind the are on the year.

As far as that puzzle goes, the pieces are starting to fit together and shape a picture, despite whatever a 1-6 record says.

"It's hard to look at the big picture right now," Sanderson said. "But as the pieces are coming together we're starting to see something that we like. We're starting to get a glimpse of the complete puzzle."

Which might just look like an N4C title.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

The male athlete of the issue is men's basketball standout Pierre Jolly. Jolly has helped lead the Wolves to a 4-3 record. Jolly scored 25 against North Central College, 32 against King college, and 22 points against Robert Morris. The mens team went 2-1 in those games, with the one come from behind win against Robert Morris.

Pierre Jolly

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY ERIC MONAHAN

The female athlete of the issue is women's basketball player Natrianna Pates. Pates scored 18 points on six three pointers against Elgin Community College, and helped the Lady Wolves defeat Prarie State for their first victory of the season. Pates also had a team high 24 points.

Natrianna Pates